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Kamid el-Loz
Report on the excavations 2010 and 2011

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with contributions by ALEXANDRA WALTHER and ELISABETH KIRSCH

Our work program in 2010 and 2011 was devoted to both the further exploration of the Late Bronze Age city and to the excavation of the Middle Bronze Age settlement resp. city of Kamid el-Loz. We examined two areas: the palace and its immediate neighborhood and the zone west of the temple. In the palace sector we focused on the reconstruction of the layout, the typology and the building history of the Late and Middle Bronze Age palace buildings and on the exploration of the monumental structure edified in the eastern vicinity of the Middle Bronze Age palace most likely even belonging to the palace as such. West of the temple our research centred on investigating the settlement remains older than the already known Late Bronze Age buildings. First insights into the utilization of this area have been gained with the help of a sounding in the eastern part of this settlement domain, where we came upon a large pit containing a mass burial which had been disposed here during the MBA II.

Again, the central theme of our excavations represents our constant concern with the events occurring in Kamid el-Loz during the Middle and Late Bronze Age. Thus, we deal with the architectural developments; we reconstruct space design as well as functions and activities located in the houses and areas within the settlements. We analyze the inventories and installations of the buildings, the pottery, tools and further small find categories and last but not least explore the relationships between the life of the living and the "life" of the dead.

Preface
(M. Heinz)

Our period of excavation in 2010 and 2011 was each a short, but all successful one. We cordially thank Anne-Marie Afeiche, Raffi Gergian and Dr. Assaad Seif for helping us with all we needed to start and carry out our work in Kamid el-Loz. We also thank the mayor of Kamid el-Loz, Haidar al Hajj, for his support. My sincere thank goes of course to our colleagues and friends of Kamid el-Loz as well as to the archaeological colleagues who took part in the 2010 and 2011 excavation: Alexandra Walther, Elisabeth Wagner-Durand, Julia Linke, Michael Leicht, Christian Krug, Lisa Kirsch and Antonietta Catanzariti. Hassan Yahya for the first time since many years could not be with us in Kamid el-Loz but as usual helped in many ways organizing both seasons! And another friend shall be mentioned who is accompanying and helping us

continuously since years and is thus considered an irreplaceable friend, Georges Hanna.
As guests and researchers we again welcomed Hanna Hamel during our season of 2010, specialist for the Roman pottery, we also welcomed Ann-Kathrin Evers, who conducted the flotation of the season 2010 and Dr. Konstantin Pustovoytov, geoarchaeologist, 2011, the latter two both are at the same time representatives of our new cooperation partner PD Dr. Simone Riehl, Freiburg. And at this point I would like to express explicitly my sincere thanks to Isa Saati, who as our colleague and friend is organizing the daily work on our excavation since the very beginning of our activities in Kamid el-Loz!

A Short Preliminary Remark
(M. Heinz)

This presentation is an interim report about the results worked out during our excavations in 2010 and 2011 in Kamid el-Loz (**Fig. 1**). General information concerning our aims and scientific interests in Kamid el-Loz can be read up in our most recent report about the excavations in Kamid el-Loz in the years of 2008 and 2009 in *BAAL* 14; there see amongst others the chapters: I. Kamid el-Loz: From village to city and back again? The settlement history; II. The settlement evidence from the Roman and Hellenistic periods – a short review [M.H.; III. The Archaeological Evidence – The Iron Age; IV. Archaeological Evidence - The Late Bronze Age; V. Between Late Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age; VI. The Middle Bronze Age; VII. Middle Bronze Age Chronology in the Levant: Identifying an Adequate Chronology for Kamid el-Loz; VIII. Closing Reflections; IX. Catalogue of the Small Finds). Former reports also inform explicitly about our scientific aim and ideas concerning the development of Kamid el-Loz through the ages. See also the bibliography for our current list of publications concerning Kamid el-Loz[1].

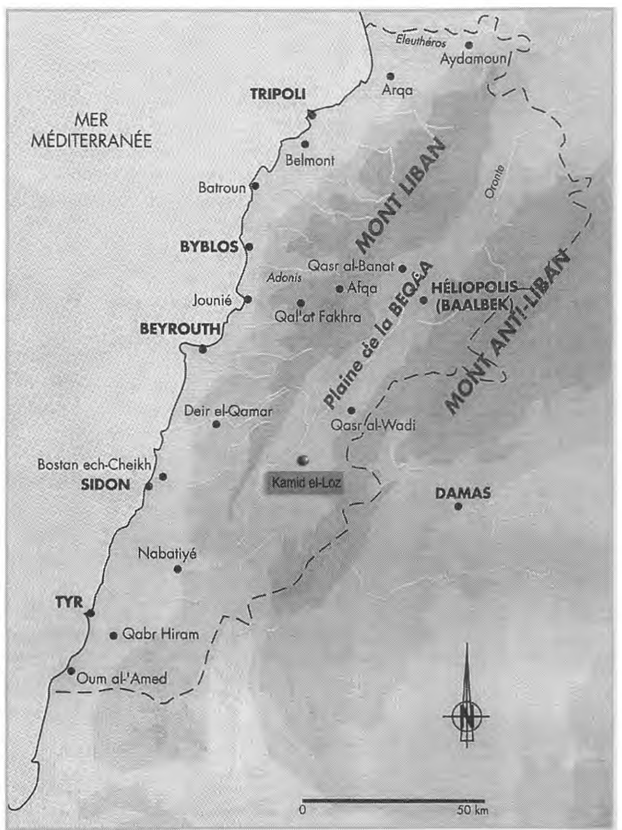


Fig. 1- Map of Lebanon.

Aims and interests 2010 – 2011
(M. Heinz)

The study of the built environment in its continuities and changes, the analysis of the space design and its development, the determination of the use of the built space - for the life of the living but as well as for the life of the dead, the exploring of the small finds and the pottery development, their dissemination in space, their forms, materials and, after all, their usage patterns and functions have been some of our research topics in Kamid el-Loz during our research on site in 2010 and 2011. Our work focused on the palace-structure and on the neighboring "administrative" area (2010 and 2011) as well as on the living quarter west of the temple realm (2011) (**Fig. 2**). Our actual aims in 2010 and 2011 in the palace area have been to reconstruct the layout and to establish the typology of the Late Bronze Age as well as of the Middle Bronze Age

palace architecture and to track the building history of the palaces of Kamid el-Loz. We recorded the pottery and smallfinds, the inventories and the installations typical for the public buildings of the time and tried to determine the activities carried out in the palaces during the Late and Middle Bronze Age. The palace, so our hypothesis, has been segregated from the daily business of a residential area throughout its history, but was integrated at the same time in an environment of monumental buildings. Two corresponding buildings have been placed in the immediate eastern neighborhood of the palace during the Middle and the Late Bronze Age. We are exploring their forms, their functions, the activities carried out here, their functional relationship to the palaces and thus their significance for the urban Kamid el-Loz. In 2011 we have expanded our research on the area immediately west of the temple. The area has been used, during the Late Bronze Age as well as during the Middle Bronze Age as residential area. During the Middle Bronze Age the settlers also buried the dead within this quarter. The results of a small sondage, carried out 2007, in building A resp. in its courtyard, no. C^t4, led to the assumption, that not only regular funeral services have been made in this residential area (but at a time when it was temporarily abandoned), but that at a certain time a mass grave has been created in this location (**Fig. 24**). In 2011 we wanted to verify whether this assumption is correct and if so, what actually had happened, when this grave had been set and what its temporal relationship was with the Middle and Late Bronze age residential houses.

Preliminary insights – comments in the archaeological results 2010-2011

(M. Heinz)

Every season we move some steps forward in our archaeological exploration and every season we add puzzle stones to the picture of the social, political, religious, economic and thus the cultural life in Kamid el-Loz that we are trying to understand and to explain. Our reflections concerning the events, the architectural developments, the images of the settlements, the space design, the functions and activities located in houses, areas and within the settlements as well as the life of the living and the "life" of the dead can be broadened season by season as can the analysis of pottery and small finds. The following reflections, mainly related to the build environment, are based on the outcomes of our work including the results of 2010 and 2011. They are not more yet than preliminary thoughts concerning the life in Kamid el-Loz through the ages – and should be read in connection with our considerations concerning the history of Kamid el-Loz already published. A list of the relevant publication is added. We present the considerations first and the evidence afterwards, knowing about the strain to read the austere technical details of a classical excavation report ...

Events

Twice during the Middle Bronze Age (about 2000 – 1550 B.C.) did Kamid el-Loz burn! And at least the palace area and the area of the administrative district were strongly affected.

The Palace Area[2]

After the first fire-disaster had struck the palace area during the MBA II, destroying the older MBA II palace, the inhabitants of Kamid el-Loz re-erected a monumental building, the younger MBA II palace, on the rubble of the burnt predecessor (the older MBA II palace). When the fire hit the area a second time and destroyed the palace again (now the younger MBA II palace), the reaction was different. Obviously had those living afterwards in Kamid el-Loz seen no need, had no means or where not allowed (?) to rebuild a palace again. The site underwent a functional alteration. On top of the burnt "palace-rubble" did the inhabitants of Kamid el-Loz build a small living house (**Fig. 8**) (Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press), a functional transformation that had taken place during the late MBA II. Only at the beginning of the Late Bronze Age did those then responsible for the construction activities in Kamid el-Loz rededicate the location to the older function and erected once more a building of monumental size, now the earliest LBA palace. Although we do not yet know the political story behind the events (a theme



Fig. 2- The Tell Kamid el-Loz – aerial photography.

that is explored for the time), first considerations concerning the actors involved are possible. Whatever designation we give the monumental building affected, palace, monumental house, official building – the effort to erect a building of its size had been invested twice, had then been interrupted and then again been repeated. We may also say: a tradition had evolved, was then interrupted and, after this discontinuation, re-invented again. If so, the question is, who those had been who invented, and carried on, the tradition and who those had been who used the spot for a small residential building, integrating the walls – and thus knowing about the existence – of the older monumental structure? Change of function, interruption of a tradition – who dares to do the latter? People who have not been socialized in this tradition and for whom the monumental building respectively the rubble of this building was not more than exactly this – rubble, or people who had not benefited from this tradition and would thus have been most interested in preventing every visible reminder? The re-use of the location for again erecting a monumental building raises comparable questions concerning the builders– and more. The MBA II monumental building had mostly been covered by the burnt rubble of its brick walls. Those who erected the LBA I palace however did use the older stone foundations of the MBA II building, integrated it into the new structure and even led some walls of the new structure exactly parallel to the older walls (see below for the detailed report on the construction and design of both the younger MBA II palace and its LBA I successor). How could they know about this older structure that had been completely covered and even partly overbuild? How did the knowledge survive? Or was it rather that those building the new palace (LBA I) accidentally came across the older walls and used them where they were useful? The function of the location, site of a palace, a monumental or public building thus was taken up again, the type of building however changed and followed a new layout.

The Administrative Area[3]

The fire disaster that hit the palace area twice had obviously also destroyed the next door district to the east, the so-called administrative area. Huge masses of burnt brick form the foundation layer of room 1/2010 and room 2/2011, parts of a monumental building of MBA II age, built, respectively used at the same as the younger palace building and thus called here as well younger MBA II structure. The actual type of the predecessor building, whose destruction caused the large amount of brick debris is not yet known, but a section of a detached single massive wall belonging to this building period, the older MBA II, has been captured in 2011. Nevertheless, this much is clear– according to the masses of burnt brick rubble the location had also housed a monumental building! The building history as well as the destructive history of the palace and the administrative area are thus the same during the MBA II. In both areas a so-called older MBA II structure burnt down, was used as the foundation layer of the successor building, a so-called younger MBA II structure, and in both areas did this younger MBA II structure again fell victim to a fire disaster! In the palace area we partly know the older MBA II building, in the administrative area we know, at the moment being, only the rubble of this older structure as well as the above mentioned massive wall. In both areas had the fire destroyed the building stock twice during the MBA II, in both areas did the rebuilding during the MBA II maintain the locations' monumental architectural character. And as can be seen especially in the administrative area, those responsible spared no effort to capacitate this continuity. Here the older MBA II building resp. the massive detached wall had been built close to the hillside, as the sections of our 2011 excavation show. The burnt rubble, pressing from the south against this wall, made the area now obviously unstable and the structures here were thus in danger to slide down this hillside. To prevent the slipping of the massive wall down the hill, a huge landfill was thrown up to level the slope, creating the new horizontal foundation layer for the building activities that followed the vast destruction. The younger MBA II building, so far captured with rooms 1 and 2 (**Fig. 17**), emerged as did the installation east of it, whose function and way of use remain to be understood. How many years the younger MBA II building had been in use is still unclear, that it also fell victim to the fire that destroyed the younger MBA II palace can be considered safe. The architectural

character (and thus the functional use!?) of the administrative area did, during the LBA I, correspond to the space design known from the MBA II. The builders in charge erected not only another major construction, which overbuilt the MBA II monumental structure, but also the so-called "Schatzhaus" (treasure house) as well as the so-called "Werkstatt" (workshop). Regardless of this continuity there are some indications in the archaeological results that might hint at an intermediate functional designation of the area after the fire destruction and before the re-building of the location for administrative purposes (see also the palace area and its intermediate use after the second massive burning at the end of the MBA II). West of the MBA II building had a tannour been placed and next to this a child being buried in a pot (**Fig. 17**). This pot had been damaged and the skeleton torn into pieces, when the MBA II wall of the younger monumental building collapsed and fell on top of this space. The pottery around the burial was rather LBA I than MBA II – and the question at the moment being unanswered is: when did the MBA II wall collapse? It is not impossible that here also, as in the palace area, a transitory functional change took place and that the use of the location as a burial space represents likewise an intermediate utilization of the then burnt and devastated area.

The Residential Area
(Figs 24-25 and 33)

A corresponding transitory functional change also occurred in the residential area west of the temple. The MBA II settlement obviously had been abandoned for an intermediate period. The reason for this has still to be found out. Unlike in the palace and administrative area did the residential area show no evidence of fire destruction. Instead we found heavily eroded pottery fragments in the area that rather hint at a period where the MBA II houses had been left open. This assumption, that the area might have been temporarily abandoned, is reinforced by the excavation results in building A. In the courtyard of the LBA I building A had a burial pit been embedded, containing the remains of ten dead persons. Complete skeletons as well as many single bones filled this pit, some of the bones showed signs of violence and excessive force. The pottery found in the pit clearly date into the MBA II period. The pit must have been installed before house A had been erected during the Late Bronze Age I – walls W'3 and W'5 of building A overbuilt the pit!

So what happened in Kamid el-Loz in the middle of the second millennium B.C.?

The historical events that led to the two major fire destructions in Kamid el-Loz are still unexplored, their investigation and reconstruction is part of the ongoing research. It is, moreover, a question still unanswered, why after the first fire disaster those living in Kamid el-Loz were able to rebuilt the city, while the second blaze changed the local living conditions profoundly. It is thus of major interest to explain the circumstances that led to the intermezzi as well as to find out, who the "actors" had been at the time. And another question becomes virulent. After the transitional functional change those responsible for rebuilding Kamid el-Loz re-introduced in all three areas the originally located functions. But how did the knowledge about the former functions survive the transitional period? And who were those who had this knowledge at their disposal? A last thought shall be given to the burials. The previously known MBA II burial customs in Kamid el-Loz[4] point out that burying the dead within the settlement and at times when the settlement and houses were still occupied, was the exception in Kamid el-Loz. Our latest insights concerning the burial customs seem to confirm this. In Kamid el-Loz did the life of the living and the "life" of the dead, as a rule, belong to two different spheres. The settlement was for the living, the dead had to be placed outside, an abandoned settlement seems to have complied with this demand.

Archaeological Results 2010-2011

1. The Palaces (E. Wagner-Durand)

During the Middle and the Late Bronze Age the palaces ought to have been one of the central buildings of the city of Kamid el-Loz (**Fig. 3**).



Fig. 3- The palace area – aerial photography.

Our studies concerning this building area provide insights into several successive and distinct construction levels[5]. The up to now best preserved level amongst these is represented by the (younger) extended palace building of the Middle Bronze Age II[6] period[7] (acc. to *BAAL* 14 = MBP2). This structure was built on top of a MBA II predecessor building: the so-called "older" MBA II palace of which we already exposed several walls and some rooms resp. courtyards (= MBP3). The younger MBA II palace building, destroyed by a heavy fire (as well as its predecessor and its successor buildings) has in turn also been overbuilt at least once during the final MBA period. First, the burnt palace building was leveled out and the suitably prepared rubble then used, still during the Middle Bronze II period, to erect a small residential building on top of it: the so-called intermediate building[8] (= MBP1). After a period of usage of still unknown duration this residential building was given up. The site was leveled anew and once again re-used for the construction of a monumental building, namely the first Late Bronze Age palace of ancient Kumidi (= LBP2, for LBP3 and LBP1 see *BAAL* 14).

Concerning the Late Bronze Age palace remains we will focus on the new walls of the Late Bronze Age building excavated in 2010/11 and on their integration into the Late Bronze Age palace in its northern parts, already excavated earlier[9].

1.1. The Late Bronze Age Palace

1.1.1. General description

The excavation seasons of 2010 and 2011 gave the final proof for an extension of the Late Bronze Age palace to the North and to the West (**Fig. 4**)[10]. The early Late Bronze Age (LBA I) usage of this northern part seems to have been quite extensive and in parts directly re-using (or structurally being connected to) the MBA buildings constructed there some time before. To shortly sum up the general layout of the LBA I palace remains, a brief description (from north to south) follows.

The northern part of the palace is mainly characterized - respectively dominated but not limited - by wall W^{P}40 running parallel and very close to the slightly southern situated MBA palace wall (see **Figs 5 and 6**, wall W^{P}41)[11]. Wall W^{P}40 runs in the very east into the eastern section and may once have stretched as far as the so-called "Schatzhaus" / treasury. In the West it merges with (respectively overbuilds) an older MBA structure, namely the already mentioned W^{P}41. There, wall W^{P}40 turns to the south, then named wall W^{P}51 and running parallel to the possibly still visible MBA wall W^{P}20[12]. North of W^{P}40 several walls (W^{P}45, W^{P}47, W^{P}48) branch off to the North indicating further rooms and activity areas: at least two rooms or courts and one entrance can be observed: Thus, walls W^{P}45 and W^{P}47 flank the mentioned entrance leading into the Late Bronze Age palace (see **Fig. 4**, detail); east of W^{P}45 a yet functional unknown room or courtyard is situated; west of wall W^{P}47, a unit for household activities affiliated. This unit is subdivided by a later added small wall W^{P}48, most likely forming some kind of wind protection (see below for details).

The entrance already described led (from N to S) into a wide room respectively area in which no further LBA features could be detected explaining the usage of this lengthy room. However, keeping the direction and heading further to the South a visitor is led into another entrance corridor from which he/she could either reach the rooms 1a and 1b in the West or the rooms 2 and 3 in the east[13]. Further in the South the corridor leads into a wide area[14]. This whole palace structure is bordered in the West by the outer wall W^{P}1, a massive structure with supporting ledges[15]. The eastern palace 'border' is covered by the eastern section and the modern cemetery. The palace itself stretches further to the South: several walls have been excavated there, proving different building stages if not even different building levels[16] and hinting to a further extension of the palace to the South.

In addition to this, in the very northern area, north of W^{P}40 further structures, partly filled with LBA and partly filled with MBA rubble could be detected (for details see below, 1.2.1.5). Those structures include a round structure and several adjacent walls. Mostly the round structure should have been founded during the MBA but may have been reused during the LBA or at least filled with rubble from the LBA period (see here the MBA palace).

A very important and intriguing feature of the northern and northwestern part of the palace area is

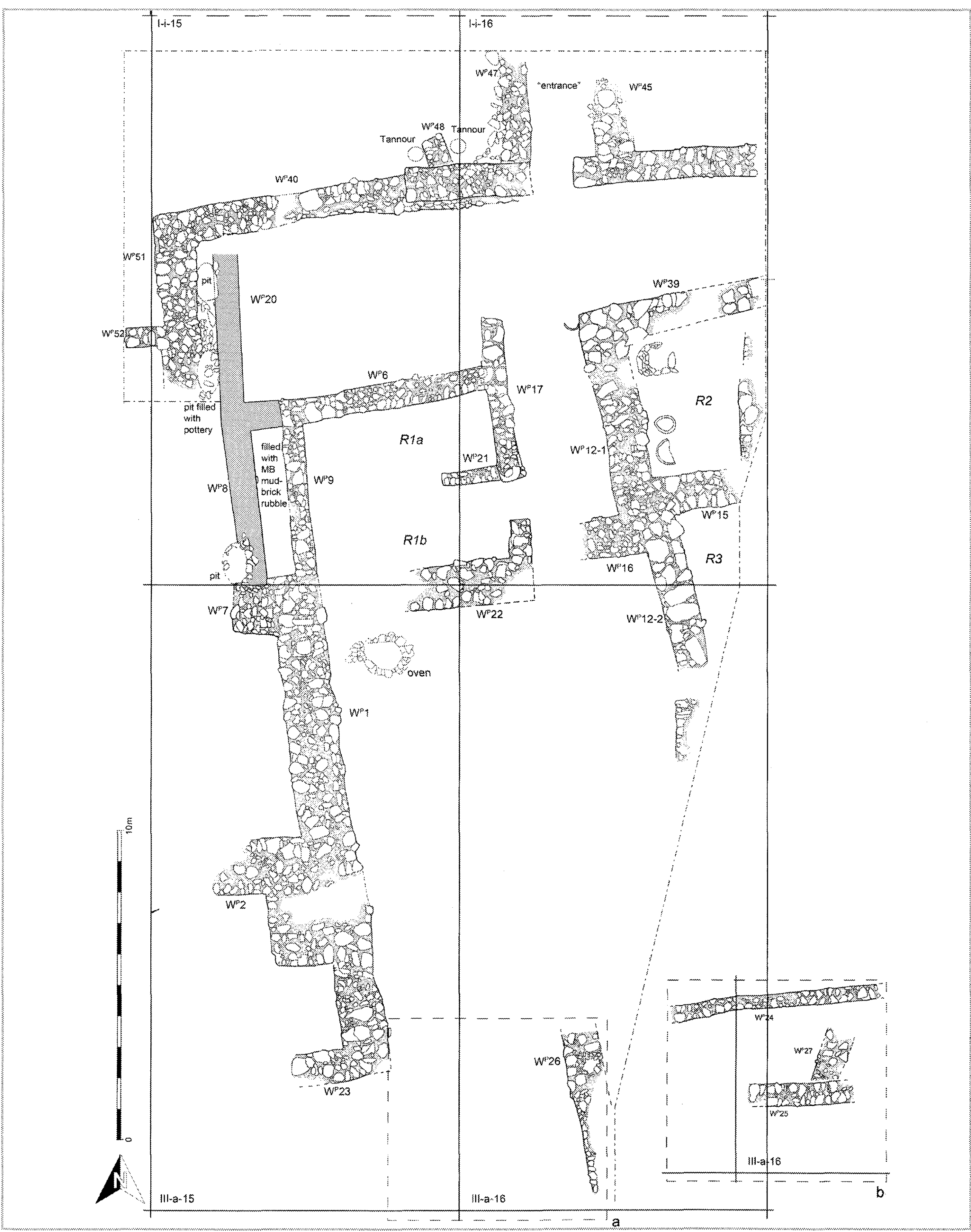


Fig. 4- Plan of the oldest late bronze age palace remains.

the general layout of the building ground: The palace is set on top of two merging slopes: one running from south to north, being extraordinarily steep in the northern part and vividly observable by the course of middle entrance corridor[17] and one running down from east to west best mainly being visible in the very western parts.

1.1.2. Details concerning Wall W^P40

The already mentioned Wall W^P40 shows at least three building stages. The base of the oldest layer known so far is preserved in at least 2-4 stone layers. Its foundation in the West lies comparably deep at a height of 940,38m, and in its eastern part slightly higher at about 940,86m. Therefore the older stone rows of the foundation reach into the level of the Middle Bronze Age palace context. An early use of the wall W^P40 of this stage during the MBA cannot be excluded at the moment. Stage two in the building history of wall W^P40 has also been preserved in 2 – 4 stone layers. At this level of 940.86m, the builders sealed the younger row of stones of construction phase 1 over its total (preserved) length with a 10cm thick layer of clay. The wall of construction phase 2 thus begun at this height: the highest preserved stones of this construction phase two have been preserved up to 941,79m. At 969,50m east, phase 2 of W^P40 had no longer been based on the older stone layer, but on the brick rubble of the MBA II palace (at level of ca. 941,40m). A third modification took place: again the builders spread a solid layer of earth, approximately 15 cm thick, on top of stone foundation of phase 2 (younger stone layer at level 941,79m, younger edge of the earth layer about 942,07m). The third layer has been preserved, at its highest point, at 942,32m–942,50m. This younger layer had been formed as a double row of stones, serving as the sub-structure for the uprising brick wall, which has not been preserved. The younger, third layer of wall W^P40 is absent in the eastern part.

1.1.3. Area north to Wall W^P40

The season 2011 provided also new insights into the layout of the northern part of the LBA palace building (**Fig. 5**). Walls W^P45[18], partly excavated in 2010 and W^P47[19], newly exposed in 2011, form a passage through wall W^P40, leading into a large, east-west oriented long rectangular room of the LBA palace and into an area north of wall W^P40 that awaits its exploration. The area east of wall W^P45 has as well not yet been explored. Walls W^P45 and W^P40 form a unit beginning from top down with phase 2 of wall W^P40. Walls W^P47 and W^P40 also form a construction unit (latest) beginning with the second phase of wall W^P40. The entrance formed by both walls and leading through W^P40 clearly belongs to the LBA palace building. Whether the forerunner MBA II – building did also have an entrance in this area still has to be verified. West of wall W^P47 the area was filled with reddish-brown earth, broken and eroded bricks and ashes. Further west another wall (W^P48)[20] is connected to the youngest phase of wall W^P40, the wall obviously rather forming a protection against dust and wind then being the western wall of a room in this area. Two aspects support this assumption: first a tannur had been placed in the eastern corner of wall W^P40 / wall W^P48 and second the north/south-extension of wall W^P48 just reached about 1,00m. This quite badly preserved tannour in the East reaches down to ca. 941,60m (base). An older tannour situated about ca. 1 m west of this younger tannour reaches even down to ca. 941,07m, but has not been in use during the construction of W^P48. This older installation clearly shows that this area, west of W^P45 was used for household activities over a longer time span. Possibly because of disturbances by wind during food processing or baking the small wall W^P48 was later added to protect those working there.

1.1.4. The western course of Wall W^P40 and the western LBA I palace extension.

The already mentioned wall W^P40 runs further to the west, where it merges with wall W^P41[21] of the older MBA structure at 960m (that is at the western limit of area I-i-15) (**Fig. 6**). Two further walls, W^P51, the extension of W^P40 after turning in right angle to the south, and the conjunct wall W^P52, excavated 2011 add further insights into the layout of the western realm of the LBA). Wall W^P51, running north – south, is attached to wall W^P40. In turn, wall W^P52 runs east-west and branches off from wall W^P51 further in the south: this small wall of yet quite unknown function has later been added to Wall W^P51[22].

At least in-between W^P52 and W^P40, wall W^P51



Fig. 5- The northern part of the MBA and LBA palaces, aerial photography.

consists of three parallel laid stone rows bordered by a fourth single row of stones, running parallel and forming the western outer side of this structure / wall W^P51. Wall W^P51 therefore seems to be built either at two different points in time or to be constructed at the same time with a peculiar building technique. Wall W^P51 runs further to the South and awaits the coming excavations to be exposed.

In-between wall W^P20 and W^P51 two pits could be uncovered, almost integrated into wall W^P20 at its western side (see **Fig. 6**). The pits – 50 cm wide (E-W), between 1.50 m and 2 m long (S-N) and more than 40cm deep – were deepened into the ground and carefully plastered with a chalky, fragile substance. Those pits certainly belong to a third pit, already excavated in 2008 in-between wall W^P7 and W^P20. Due to the new data concerning the pottery (see below, item 6), filled in the first and mainly in the second pit, the dating of those pits, or at least there filling can be set into the early LBA period, revising the older assumption made[23]. All three pits were filled with a greenish earth hinting to a high concentrate of phosphor. Whereas the most southern pit was empty, except for very small remains of fragile and wet wooden fragments, the northern pits contained pottery fragments; the one in the midst was even completely packed with broken pottery, still under detailed examination. At least one further pit alongside wall W^P20 should be expected. Additionally, the area between the northern pit and wall W^P51 showed a



Fig. 6- The palace walls W^{P}41-40, W^{P}50-52 (northwestern palace area) and the Late Bronze pits.

soil filling with a high amount of very fragile charcoal pieces, which seem to stem from heavily, very flat burnt wooden balks, once fallen or placed on top of stones and soil.

Larger amounts of pottery were also uncovered west of wall W^{P}51 and north of W^{P}52: Mainly fragments from storage vessels, like a bottom and a complete rim were exposed, but no complete vessels were detectable.

The structure of wall W^{P}51, its connection to wall W^{P}40, and to the parallel running but most likely older wall W^{P}20 with its later blocked passageway, discovered 2011 and, last but not least, the two basins respectively pits, integrated into wall W^{P}20 raise some stratigraphical – and even more functional – questions concerning the utilization of this part of the palace. The pits might have been deepened into the ground during the very beginning of the LBA building activities. Whatever their function has been (profane or sacral) it seems likely that they have not been accessible over a longer time span – if that was ever the purpose. A cultic explanation of these pits is not out of range.

1.1.5. Addendum: Wall W^{P}46 – a younger LBA wall in the western palace area

The area in the west, described above, has witnessed a tremendous change during the further course of the Late Bronze Age. At some yet unknown point in time a huge NW-SE running wall has been deepened into this area (**Fig. 7**). This wall was partly set of huge stones

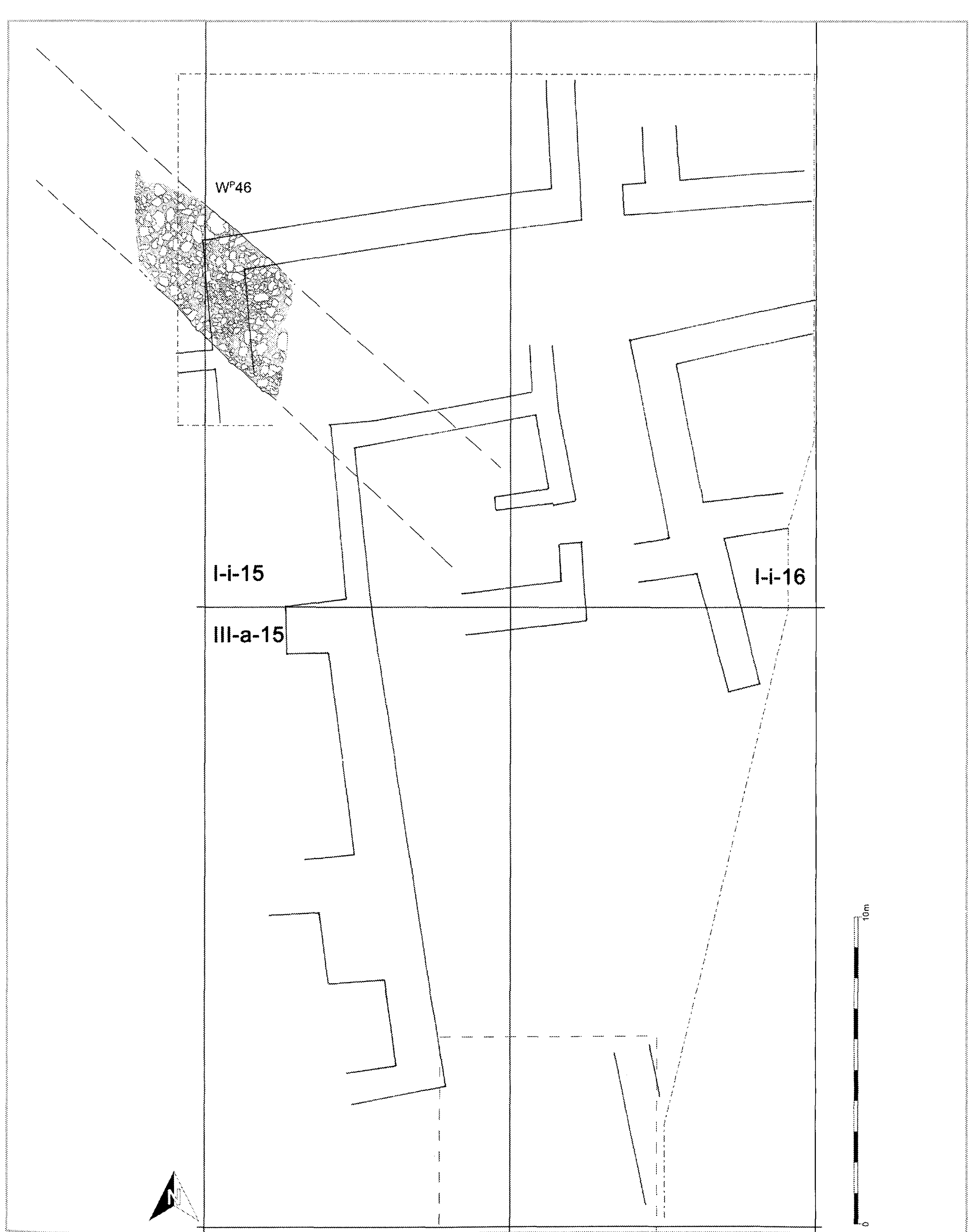


Fig. 7- Plan of the massive LBA palace wall W^P46.

and therefore witnessing a considerable construction effort. It was 5 meter wide and runs further into the western profile. The southeastern extension has not been preserved. However, its extension can said to be proven since this wall must be identical with the Wall 96, of Palace P4 (P4a), once excavated by the Saarbrucken team[24]. Southwest of this wall a dense blackish ash layer could be detected, directly reaching to the wall. The course of wall W^{P}46 must have been sloping down from SW to NE, which is tentatively indicated also by the levels of the younger layers given by the Saarbrucken excavation[25]. The function of this quite impressive construction remains questionable, but fortification and segregation might be plausible.

1.1.6. Interpretation of the buildings functions and space design of the oldest LBA palace remains

According to our results of the seasons 2010 / 2011 the layout of the LBA I palace (as well as of the MBA II palace) can be revised. Both buildings extend further to the North as well as to the west. Immediately north of the LBA I palace-wall W^{P}40 we detected rooms respectively activity units.

Tannours at the northern side of wall W^{P}40 do hint to household activities (see above). Further questions concern the basins / pits integrated into wall W^{P}20, filled with LBA I/II pottery that had already been broken, when placed into the basin/pits, but was not just "thrown into" them but carefully placed. Why did the constructors of the LBA I palace place the pits here? Why did they fill them with large amounts of broken pottery and what kind of activities may have been connected to these pits (storage or deposition, cultic reasons). These question form an excerpt of all questions to be dealt with in the running of our research.

1.2. The Middle Bronze Age palaces

Currently, we are releasing at least two levels of the Middle Bronze Age palaces simultaneously. Both buildings underwent severe destructions by fire. In both cases, however, the stone foundations of the walls did survive the fires more or less intact (**Figs 3 and 8**). Furthermore the uncovering of the younger MBA palace is always accompanied by the possible exposure of more remains of the intermediate MBA building and its surrounding.

1.2.1. The younger Middle Bronze Age palace[26]

1.2.1.1 The general layout of the MBA palace

The younger Middle Bronze Age palace consisted of at least 7 to 8 rooms respectively courtyards[27]: from south to north we witness rooms R11, R9 and R8, lining up in a row (**Fig. 8**). The yet central part is formed by the northern bordering hall R10, once partly roofed by a wooden superstructure. In the North two further rooms affiliate to R10: rooms R6 and R7. (Please notice that room R5 and R4 only existed during the later level of the Middle Bronze Age intermediate building, and do not belong to the palace occupation levels.) Room R6 and courtyard R10 are bordered in the West by a newly uncovered room R13. This room was bordered by the yet known northern "outer" extension wall W^{P}41, by W^{P}29 and W^{P}10-1 in the East and by W^{P}20 in the south. The latter has been thought to belong to the LBA period, but new insights have definitely proven that this wall was already built during the MBA period. A further unit ought to be reconstructed further in the west, adjacent to the new room 13. This existence of these units or open spaces is mainly indicated by the stone flooring uncovered there (see below.) Up to now, it seems more than likely that the younger MBA palace, stretched further to the South and to the north, as well as also further to the west, where the slope is beginning. The extension to the East can be seen as given, but will not be available for excavation due to the modern cemetery situated above the archaeological remains.

The palace was built of walls with stone foundations and a mud-brick-superstructures. The mud-brick filling from the heavily burnt palace, which has never been rebuilt, indicate the existence of a second storage, as does a "roof" flooring in R7. Except for the older reused walls W^{P}29 and W^{P}10-3 (reusing W^{P}42), the walls were newly constructed for the extended palace building, but still being somehow attached to its predecessor palace.

As already mentioned, the younger palace building collapsed during resp. after a heavy fire and the burnt rubble, wood, bricks and a large number of broken and burnt pottery could be excavated in the whole area. Extraordinarily large quantities of broken und burnt pottery were uncovered in the area between the

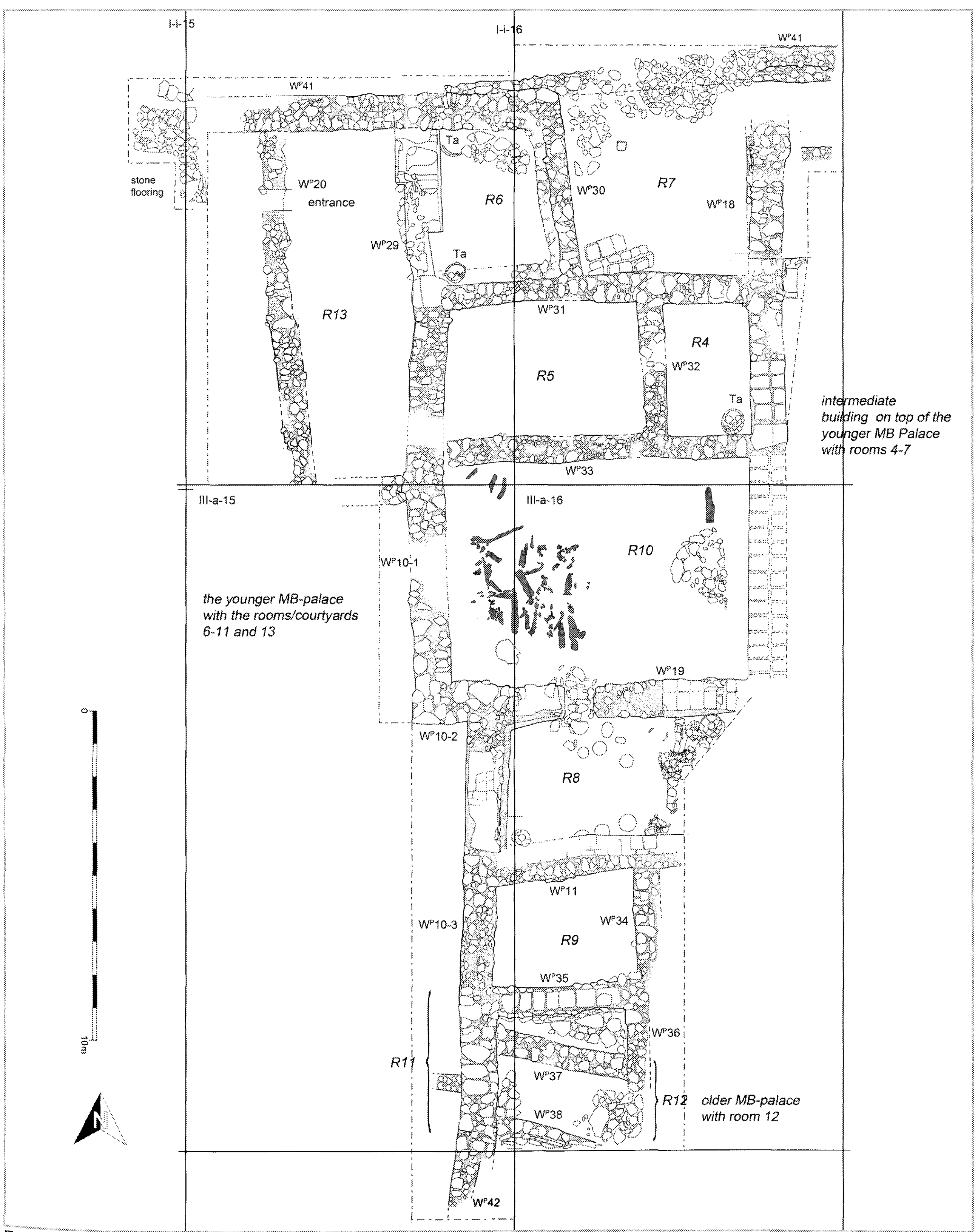


Fig. 8- Plan of the Middle Bronze Age palace(s).

walls (W^{P}41) W^{P}30, and W^{P}18[28], filling room 7, thus the northeastern part of the building.

1.2.1.2. The pottery "floor" in room 7

The area we clarified in I-i-16, has been covered with several "layers" of burnt debris, piling up to a height of about 1,15m between 941,90m and 940,75m. Mainly between W^{P}30, W^{P}41 and W^{P}18, these "layers" differed in their composition allowing some reflections concerning the process of the buildings collapse[29]. Approximately the younger 60cm of the rubble (941,90m – 941,30m) showed mainly a mix of ashes, burnt wood, mud-bricks and a high amount of broken pottery (**Fig. 9**). Below this pile an ashier layer has been preserved at a level between 941,30m and 941,00m. The layer contained less burnt wooden materials but mainly burnt brick rubble and again a variety of pottery, among them storage vessels, bowls and a variety of small vessels of different kind. This ashy "layer" merged with a third "layer" of again burnt and broken bricks, also interspersed with a high amount of pottery fragments of the same spectrum as in the burnt "layer" above it (level 941,00m – 940,75m). The deepest layer lacks the quantity of pottery observed in the younger fillings. The debris seems to be more homogeneous. Most probably this layer represented the material crashing down into the room before the roof or second storey flooring collapsed, which we now can observe with the high amount of broken pottery, consisting amongst other of huge quantities of bowls, fragmented but mostly archaeological complete, a pottery stand and further vessels, some

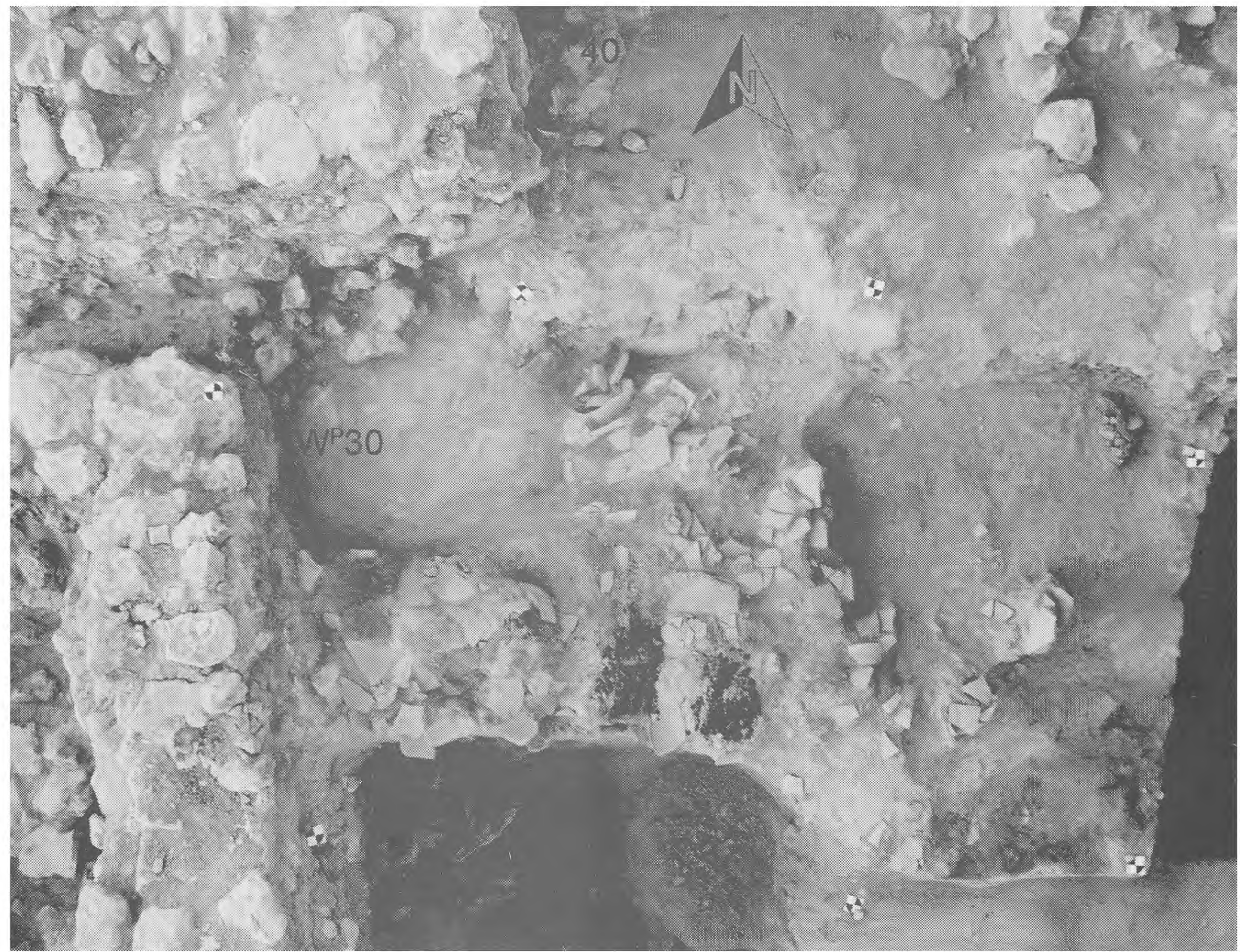


Fig. 9- The pottery 'horizon' of room 7 / MBA palace.

of them burnished, some of them decorated with incised patterns (see pottery report). Similar to room R6[30], room R8, hall R10, a floor could be observed in room 7 at a level of about 940,75m - 940,90m (see below). The location as well as the composition of the rubble and the pottery in room 7 shows that this debris did not only arise from the scorched walls but also collapsed from above into the rooms. During, or because of the fire either the younger floor and/or the roof-construction broke down. The occurrence of burned wooden beams among the debris supports this concept of a younger construction. The high amount of pottery fragments, among them storage vessels, refers to at least one function of this collapsed structure – as a storage device (for details concerning the pottery inventory and its interpretation see below, 4.1.1).

As it has already been described, burnt rubble have fallen into room 7, covering a carefully laid out floor made of one layer of stone tiles on the level of 940,75m – 949,90m (**Fig. 10**). So far, this floor has been uncovered on about 5 square meters in the area east of W^P30. The stones of this floor are based on the same burnt brick rubble that served as the foundation of walls W^P41 (east) and W^P18 (see below for details).



Fig. 10- The stone 'tiles' in room 7 / MBA palace.

1.2.1.3. The construction of W^P41 and its connected walls

Wall W^P41, a massive stone structure, was built with roughly hewn stones (the supposed brick superstructure is not preserved).

In its western part, wall W^P41 is structurally interlocked to wall W^P30 on the one side and wall W^P29 on the other side. The western end of wall W^P41 has not yet been reached respectively merges, according to our present state of knowledge (2011), with the LBA wall W^P40 at 960m E (that is, at the western limit of area). Furthermore, also in 2011, we established the connection between wall W^P41 and wall W^P20. The stratigraphical assignment of wall W^P20 to the MBA II, achieved in 2011, did not only change the wall's building 'history' (by 2010 we thought it to be exclusively part of the LBA palace), but affected also the layout of the MBA II palace. Thus a short but detailed explanation of the stratigraphy of walls W^P41 and W^P20 shall be given and a short description of the changed layout of the MBA II palace presented.

Wall W^P20 (**Figs 4 and 8**), so far captured in its deepest layer at level 941,10m and preserved up to 942,55m, must have already been built during the MBA II. The burnt rubble of the MBA II destruction had covered the whole eastern facade of wall W^P20 and the entrance once leading from the West into room 13. Thus, the wall already existed when the MBA II palace burnt down! The wall or more exactly its remains and the surrounding mud-brick rubble, however, have been reused for constructing the LBA I palace. During this constructional phase, the mud-bricks east of wall W^P20 (stemming from both the MBA palace and the intermediate building) has not been removed but used as the building ground for the extended LBA palace. This also served as a stabilization to the West where the slope is thought to be running downwards to the west. Therefore wall W^P20 did not form any room unit during the LBA period, but resumed as static function. While removing the burnt brick fill immediately east of wall W^P20 we discovered a passage through this wall and gained insights into its construction details.

The new information concerning the building history of walls $W^{P}20$ / $W^{P}41$ as well as the discovery of the passage through wall $W^{P}20$ also sheds light on the MBA buildings ground plan (**Fig. 8**). So far, rooms 6, 5, 10, 8, 9 and 11 presented the western limiting part of the MBA II palace, bordered by walls $W^{P}29$ and $W^{P}10/1$. According to the 2011 results we can now change the layout of the younger MBA II palace. Wall $W^{P}41$ forms the northern wall of the new room 13, wall $W^{P}20$ and its southern extension wall $W^{P}8$ the western and wall $W^{P}29$ its eastern wall. The southern limit of the new room 13 should be seen in wall $W^{P}53$ that extends from the MBA II wall $W^{P}29$ / $W^{P}10$-1 to the Late Bronze Age wall $W^{P}9$ (Wall $W^{P}9$ probably overbuilt wall $W^{P}7$). This still assumed stratigraphical connection of both walls, and building phases, has been either eroded or been destroyed by the later LBA I palace building.

Theoretically, the newly discovered room 13 itself must have had a further neighboring room or courtyard at its western side (**Fig. 8**), the first evidence being a stone laid floor west of wall $W^{P}51$ respectively running underneath Wall $W^{P}51$ (**Fig. 11**). The floor has been captured at a level of about 940,20m and is



Fig. 11- The stone laid floor west of wall $W^{P}51$ / palace area.

currently ascribed to the MBA II palace – a further use during the Late Bronze Age cannot (yet) be excluded. The stratigraphical observations are strengthened by our preliminary pottery studies reaching the same chronological view – and placing the pottery into the transitional period MBA/LBA. Further excavations in this area shall clarify these stratigraphical and chronological propositions.

Returning to wall $W^{P}41$, one can observe in the western part, mainly in the North of room 6, that the lowest layer of wall $W^{P}41$, which is not yet the foundation layer (!), has been seized in the western spandrel to wall $W^{P}29$ at a level of 940,30m (**Fig. 8**). The younger level of the wall is preserved here at 941,16m, while its conservation status in the gusset to wall $W^{P}30$ reaches 941,74m. Wall $W^{P}41$ is thus preserved in its western part at a height between 0,86m and 1,44m and (from 1-2 up to 5-7 stone layers)[31].

Two quite interesting features of wall $W^{P}41$ could also be observed in its western parts: First, the wall exemplifies the typical MBA II palace wall building technique, consisting of a stone base, covered by a chalky substance resp. mortar to join it with the added mud-brick superstructure (**Fig. 12**). Second, one feature in the construction of the wall had not been observed until uncovering parts of the southern facade of wall $W^{P}41$ in room 13: Pottery fragments mainly of storage vessels respectively coarse wares have been pressed against the stone foundation. Since the mud-brick rubble of the fire devastation had been pressed directly against the wall and since the temperature of the destructive fire was extremely high, the distinction of further substances, like a mortar or plaster to keep the "pottery facade" smooth was not possible.

In its eastern part, east of wall $W^{P}30$, we grasped wall $W^{P}41$ for about 1,50m to the east. Here, its younger layers have been preserved at a height of 941,40m, its lowest so far known layer reached down to a level of 940,75m (**Figs 7 and 10**). The pit that once destroyed the Late Bronze Age wall $W^{P}40$ (between east 972,25m and 973,75m) also cut wall $W^{P}41$, the destruction affected the area between 972,50m and 977,50m east. From 977,50m east we seized the wall's continuation for about 2 more meters. In this eastern part wall $W^{P}41$ was maintained in 3-4 stone layers and has been captured in its younger course at a level of 941,44m. A brick superstructure

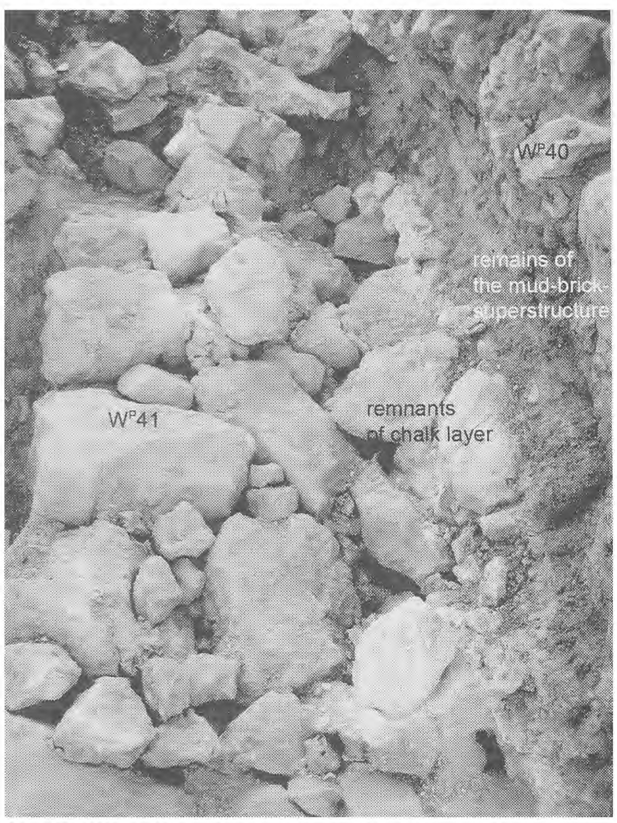


Fig. 12- Wall W^{P}41 with the remains of chalk once dividing resp. connecting the stone foundation with the mud-brick superstructure.

had (once) topped the stone structure here. This could be prooven by the gypsum layer, that is, as a rule, spread on top of the stone foundation before adding the brick and which had been preserved at the level of 941,44m. The eastern part of wall W^{P}41 has been founded on a layer of burnt brick rubble and ashes on a level between 940,90m and 940,75m.

1.2.1.4. Some observations concerning the construction of the MBA II palace in the northwest and the northeast

The foundation level of wall W^{P}41 has not yet been seized in its western segment between wall W^{P}30 and W^{P}51. The lowest layer of wall W^{P}41 so far recorded lies at level 940,30m, overbuilding (or connecting to, a detail still to be clarified) wall W^{P}29. East of wall W^{P}30, on the other hand, wall W^{P}41 is based on a layer of burnt brick rubble, seized on a slightly diverging height between 940,75m / 940,90m, deriving from the burning of the predecessor MBA II building in this spot. The same situation materializes in the foundation of wall W^{P}18, forming the hitherto known eastern boundary wall of the younger MBA II palace. Wall W^{P}18 has been founded on the same layer of burnt brick rubble and ashes as the eastern foundation of W^{P}41. Its lowest stone layer has been captured at 940,75m. Type and depth of the foundation of wall W^{P}41 thus differs clearly in its western and eastern segments. The deep foundation in the West (not yet excavated in its lowest level) makes it likely, that this part of wall W^{P}41 did already belong to a predecessor building on this location. The existence of a predecessor building has been detected here, in the northern part of the palace, by the burnt brick rubble serving as the foundation base for the eastern segment of wall W^{P}41, of wall W^{P}18 and the flooring of room 7, that could probably or most likely be attributed to the older stage (that a MBA II predecessor palace existed, has meanwhile been proven in the southern part of the location – see below for more detailed information).

1.2.1.5. North of wall W^{P}40 – new structures excavated 2011

In the northwestern part of the palace structures (MBA and LBA) a "round structure" has been exposed during our season of 2011 (**Figs 5 and 13**). The round structure, wall W^{P}49 (preserved up to a level of 941,38m with its lowest until now reached level at about 939,30m) is connected to – resp. integrated into three further walls: wall W^{P}54 running north – south and building its western border (the wall has been maintained between 941,22m and 940,62m), wall W^{P}53 (preserved between level 940,67m and 940,05m), north-south oriented and forming its eastern border as well as wall W^{P}50 (preserved in its younger layer at a level of 941,45m, in its lowest, but not yet foundation layer at level 940,06m), forming the southern limit of the round structure. In the East a yet small part of wall W^{P}55[32] was exposed running from north to east (**Figs 13 and 14**). It touches the heavily destroyed wall W^{P}50 but reveals no direct interconnection with it. Its orientation is clearly related to the extended MBA II palace and a connection seems liable. Its comparable deep foundation level is due to the slopes course running down from south to north.

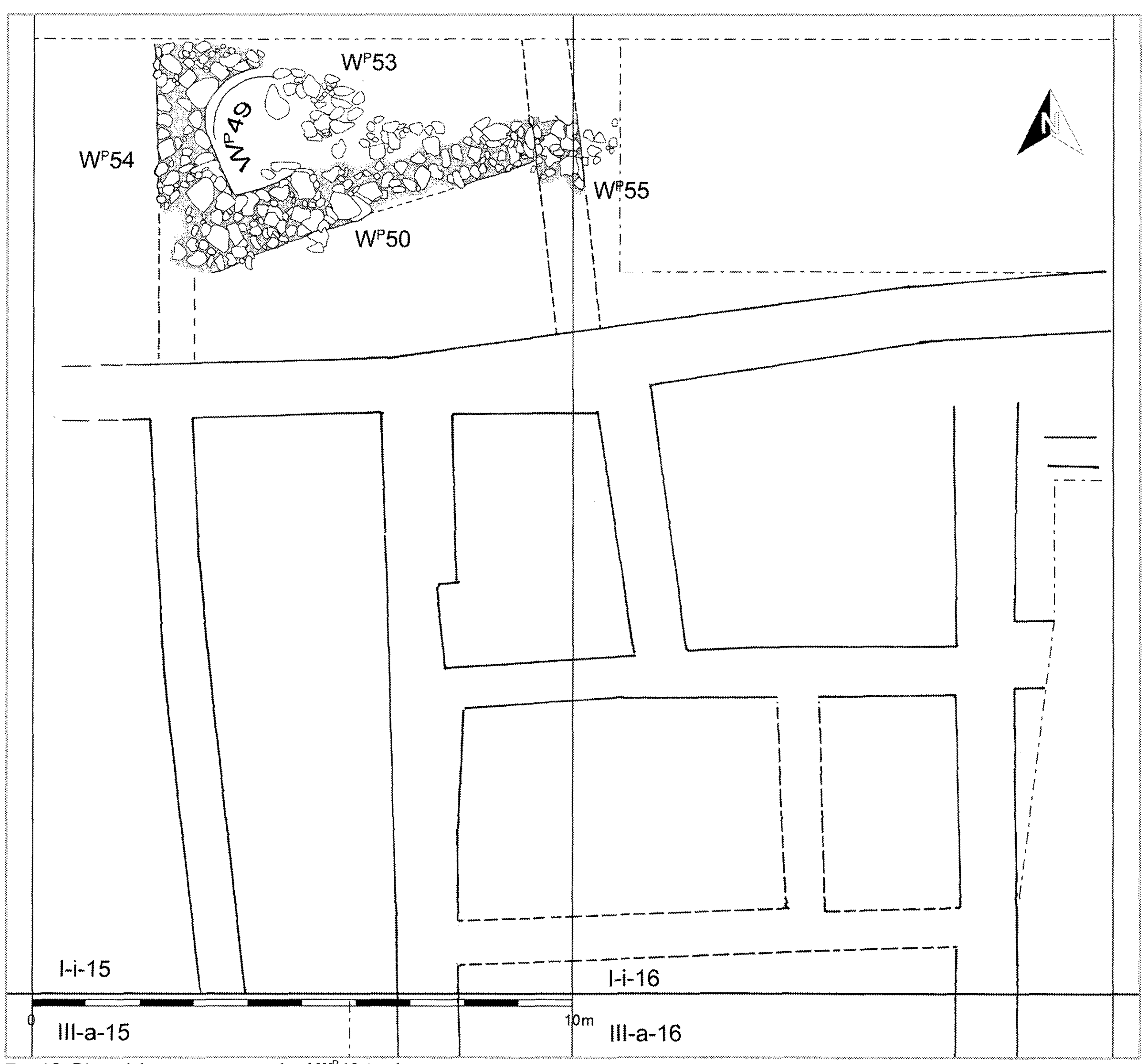


Fig. 13- Plan of the structures north of W^{P}40 / palace area.

Deepening the round structure down to a level of about 939,30m showed its solid stone built round wall in its western part. The structure as such had been filled by a heap of stones and soil. The bottom of this structure has not yet been touched and the context leaves the impression that the younger part of the structure resp. the surrounding walls might have been collapsed into this structure or the structure has been filled on purpose with these massive stones (for the detailed interpretation of this context and the stone filling see below). Interestingly enough this older filling also contained a lot of LBA bronze arrow heads, mostly in very good condition, also from this wider context the statuette of a weather god was uncovered, clearly dating into the LBA period. This filling seems to have been a purposeful one, including some religious or military-sacral performances. Considering this structure to have been built as a well (whether it could

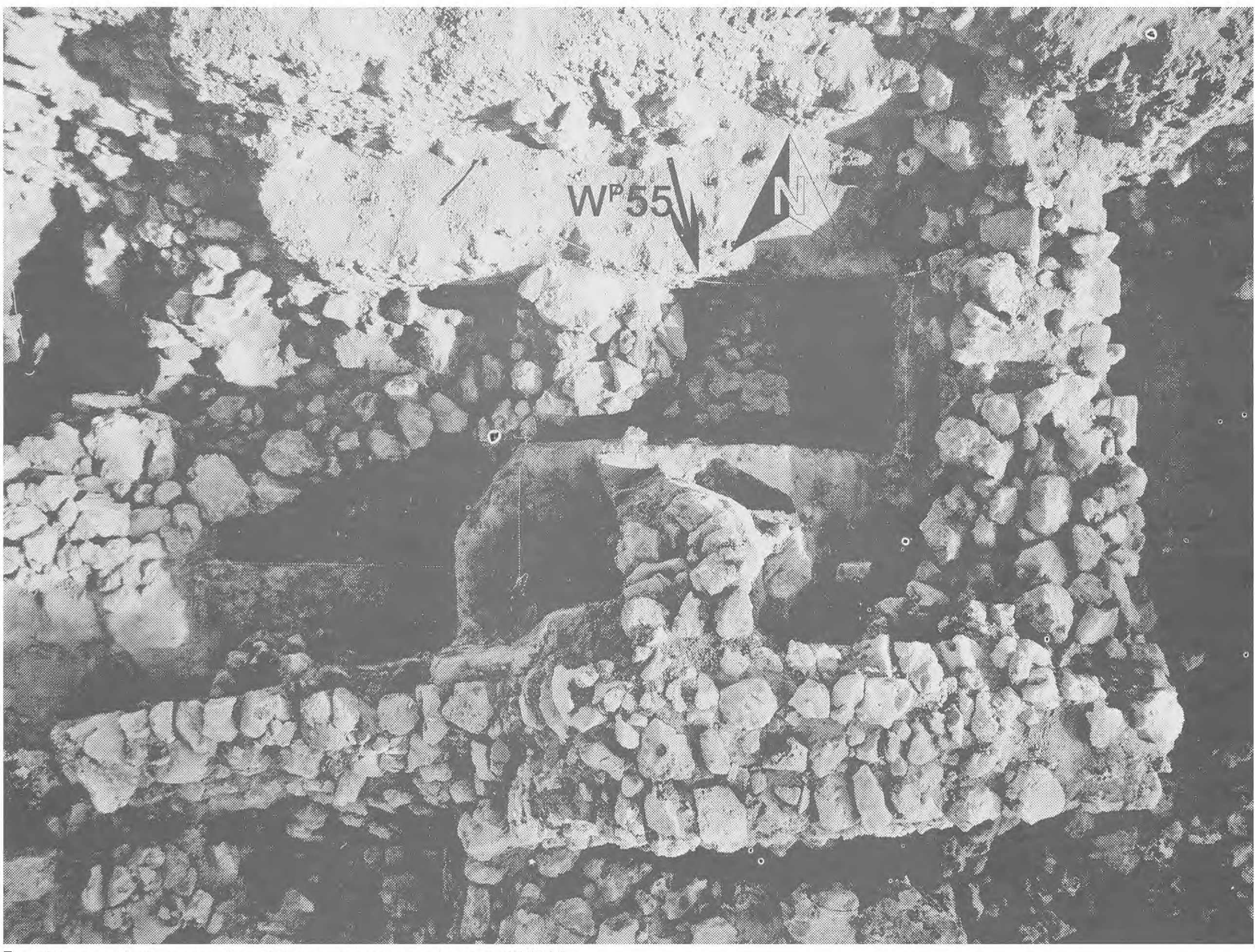


Fig. 14- Aerial photography of the structures north of wall W^P40.

ever be used as such is questionable), it could have also been understood as a chthonic connection. To pacify the gods and numinous powers of this realm by a weather god statuette and associated warrior attribute seems quite rational.

The round structure, most probably founded during the MBA period, is functionally most interesting; its preliminary interpretation would be that it once formed a well. If a well had been placed here, further questions arise (and at the moment we assume that this round structure may well have been in use both during the MBA and LBA period): Were did the water come from that filled the well? And, where had the well been placed within the palace structure – inside or outside the complex?

1.2.2. The older Middle Bronze Age palace

At this time being we know three rooms resp. courtyards, floors and several walls of this older building; the building technique, the carefully laid out stone floors, the size of the walls as well as the estimated size of the south–north extension of the building should allow us to likewise designate this older structure as a palace–building (**Fig. 3**). Like all other palaces in this location the older MBA II palace also burned down (leading into the consideration, whether the incinerations were results of disasters and/or hostile attacks or of local rituals).

1.2.2.1. The older Middle Bronze Age palace as a foundation of the younger MBA palace

The older MBA II palace and its successor occupy the same location, while the orientation of both buildings differ somewhat, as the course of walls W^P37 and W^P36 show (**Fig. 8**). Although the size and the final layout of the older building cannot yet be conclusively determined, first initial insights concerning the south–north extension and the layout of some rooms of this older palace are available. As explained above, the eastern part of the northern boundary wall W^P41 as well as wall W^P18 of the younger MBA II palace based on the burnt brick rubble of the MBA II predecessor building. As furthermore explicated above it is also conceivable that wall W^P41 in its western part and wall W^P29 in the north, both parts of the younger MBA II palace already belonged to the older MBA II palace building.

First results concerning the southern extension and building history of the older MBA II palace are also already available.

Wall W^P42 (**Fig. 8**), the eastern wall of the older MBA II palace runs into the current southern section of area III-b-15 at 938m south. That is, the southern end of the older palace building, and thus its total size is also still unknown. Wall W^P42 served as substructure for its successor, wall W^P10-3. It overbuilds wall W^P42 at a level of 941,30 m, while the younger layer of wall W^P10-3 has been preserved at a level of 941,60m. Wall W^P10-3, as its predecessor wall W^P42 has not yet been seized in its southern end. Accordingly the southern wall of room 11 of the younger Middle Bronze Age palace is still missing since no wall branching off wall W^P10-3 (resp. wall W^P42) to the East has been exposed so far. Thus room 11 extends, up to our current knowledge, at least 6 m in north-southern direction and is therefore with certainty larger than the northern rooms 9 and 8.

1.2.2.2. Rooms and floors of the older Middle Bronze Age palace

At the moment being, room 12, most likely also room 7, and the area north with their flooring represent the two rooms resp. courtyards known of the older MBA II palace (**Fig. 8**). All had been filled with burnt bricks up to a height of 0,85m (940,45m - 941,30m). In some cases the bricks had still been preserved in their compound and had slipped off from the walls stone foundations during or after the burning (**Fig. 15**)[33]. The floors of room 12, most likely also of room 7, and of the area north of W^P38 had been carefully laid out with stone tiles, preserved on a level of about 940,45m. Both areas, room 12 and the room north of it, had obviously been emptied, when the destruction occurred.

1.2.3. Additional details concerning the intermediate building period

In the southern part of the palace area, no architectural remains of the Late Bronze Age palace have been captured during our seasons 2010 (no excavations occurred in this part in 2011). But as in the years before, the burnt rubble of the Late Bronze Age building, that covered the underlying Middle Bronze Age II palace, contained a variety of large sized loom weights (about 15cm high), made of unfired clay (for further reflections of the occurrence of loom weights in this area, see below, item 7). These loom weights emphasize our thesis that processing of wool and thus textile production should be considered as one of the activities that had been carried out in this area, but had not been part of the activities carried out in the palace. According to our stratigraphic observations the context that contained those weights once belonged to the intermediate MBA II building level, thus the phase where the MBA palace had been overbuilt in the north by a small residential building: the so-called intermediate building. We assume that a comprehensive functional conversion had taken place in the so-called palace area at this time.

2. The so-called Administrative Area east of the Palace (J. Linke)

The palace, so our hypothesis, has been a central building, both during the Middle and Late Bronze Age, of the city of Kamid el-Loz. It had been segregated from the residential areas of the city residents, but was at the same time, over hundreds of years, enclosed by monumental buildings. To the north the so-called "Schatzhaus" belongs to this complex of public architecture[34]. Two large buildings east of the palace that are currently under investigation, complete this picture of a high status city district (**Figs 16 and 17**).



Fig. 15- The southern palace area.

2.1. The Late Bronze Age structure

Up to date we can display parts of either a room or a courtyard resp. some of the walls that form these structures during the Late Bronze Age (W^S2, W^S3, W^S6 and (possibly) W^S8) (**Fig. 17**). The walls' construction, stone built fundaments, each built in two rows and raising brick structures, preserved up to a height of about 0,80m, matches the technique of the palace walls. The wall foundations, so far captured for walls W^S2 and W^S3 lay at a level of 942,60m, their top layer reaches 943,20m. The level of the foundation layer of wall W^S6 is 943,15m. This Late Bronze Age wall had been built on top of the leveled burnt rubble of a (seemingly) larger Middle Bronze II predecessor building, as were the walls W^S2 and W^S3. Only in one case did the builders of the Late Bronze Age structure use a wall of the MBA predecessor building as footing. A floor in the captured Late Bronze Age structure has not yet been seized. What can be said is that after this Late Bronze Age structure had been given up, those responsible for the built environment blocked off this property with a layer of smaller stones (**Fig. 18**), forming either a cover of the older structure or a substructure for a next building. The foundation layer of this cover, captured in part on top of wall W^S3, lays at about 942,90m – 942,30m (going downwards from east to west). The LBA wall W^S8 overruns the MBA II wall W^S5 as well as wall W^S9a and W^S9b at a level of 941,80m.

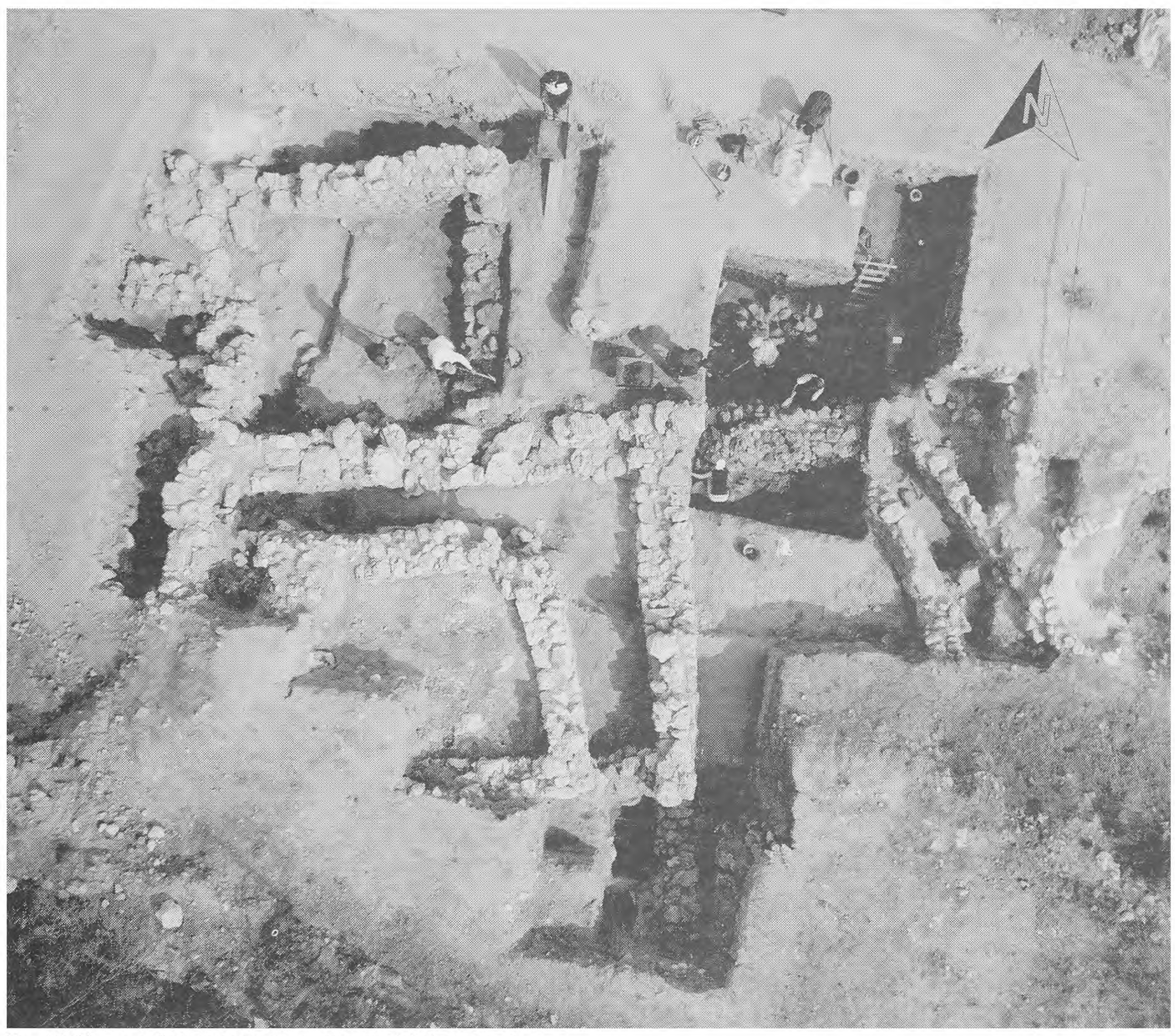


Fig. 16- The so-called administrative area – aerial photography.

2.2. The Middle Bronze Age II structure

Our seasons 2010 and 2011 did concentrate on slightly different excavation areas and are thus presented more or less according to the results of each campaign.

2.2.1. The Middle Bronze Age II structures – excavated 2010

The size of the Middle Bronze Age II room 1 resp. courtyard, excavated so far, leaves the impression that it had been larger than its successor, although it is too early to determine its total size in square meters (see **Fig. 15**) (for the chronological determination see below). The room's dimensions, known so far, the size of the stones, used for building's walls as well as the width and the depth of the walls' stone foundations (W^S4, W^S5 and W^S9a-b) all suggest a different, even more monumental category of building than do the walls of the Late Bronze Age structure. Wall W^S4 has been based on the brick rubble of a

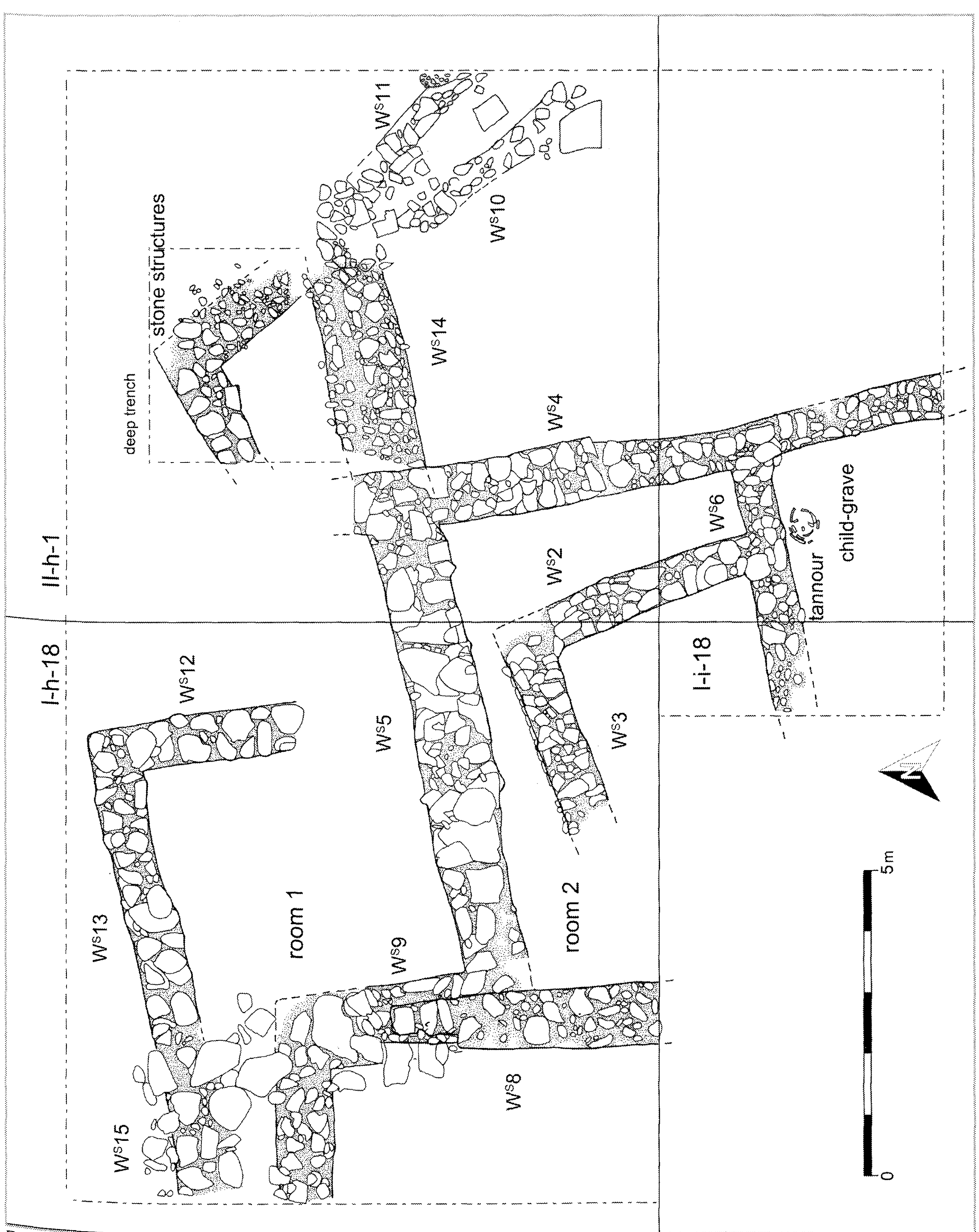


Fig. 17- Plan of the so-called administrative area – the bronze ages.

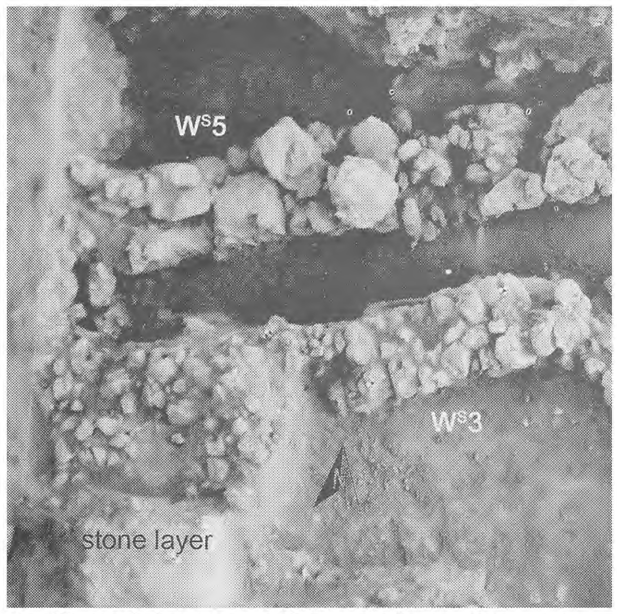


Fig. 18- Aerial photography of the so-called administrative area.

burnt down predecessor building – a situation that repeats the building history of the MBA II palaces, where parts of the younger MBA II palace (see above) are also based on the burnt rubble of the older MBA II building. The foundation level of wall W^S4, based on the burnt rubble, is 941,80 m. Wall W^S5 as well as wall W^S9a-b are founded deeper and not on the brick rubble. The lowest layer so far recorded lies at 940,88m for wall W^S5 and 941,30m for wall W^S9a-b. Furthermore comparable is the fact that all three walls, W^S4 and W^S5 as well as wall W^S9a-b show themselves clear signs of having been destroyed by fire. I.e., this building also burnt down (as did the younger MBA II palace). Nevertheless is the conservation status of the monumental stone bases of all three walls excellent (which corresponds again to the situation in the MBA II palaces). The walls are being preserved up to a height of about 1,70m, as for example captured with wall W^S5 (lowest layer so far recorded at 940,88m and highest preserved stone layer at 942,60m). The brick rubble, deriving from the burnt walls superstructure, mixed with pottery fragments and small finds, filled and covered the MBA II room down to the floor level, captured in the gusset between wall W^S4 and W^S5 and there at a level of about 941, 80m. The debris layer encompasses by now a thickness of about 0,80m (height of the mud-brick debris and ash-layers up to 942,60m). Close to the spandrel between walls W^S5 and W^S9a-b a large storage vessel was found, preserved in situ, also covered and surrounded with the burnt mud-brick rubble.

As mentioned wall W^S8 overruns the MBA II walls W^S9a and W^S9b as well as W^S5. We seized the white chalk layer on wall W^S9b, this layer, as a rule in the building technique of Kamid el-Loz, covers the stone foundation of the walls and serves as a support for the uprising brick superstructure. This brick structure, thus the former superstructure of the MBA II wall (!), had been preserved in only one layer on which then the new stone foundation of Late Bronze Age wall W^S8 had been erected at a level of 941,80m.

2.2.2. The Burial in the Administrative area

About 1m west of the MBA II wall W^S4 a child had been buried in a pithos (exact location: north 975,20m and east 1002m in area II-i-1; level of the placement of the pithos: 943,00m) (**Fig. 19**). The burnt bricks



Fig. 19- Child's burial in the so-called administrative area.

of wall W^S4 had been fallen on top of this pithos, destroying the vessel, tearing the skeleton out of his original position and covering both the skeleton and the smashed pithos (the rubble covering the burial has been seized up to the level of 943,50m). We interpret this area, where the dead had been put down, as an open court. A *tannour*, installed here, supports this interpretation. Since the collapse of the MBA II wall W^S4 destroyed and then covered this burial, the deposition of the dead must have taken place at a time in which the Middle Bronze Age II wall W^S4 was still intact. At what point the wall collapsed, during MBA II or later, is still a matter of debate – as is thus the final chronological fixing of the burial. The pottery found in this courtyard and in connection with the tannour will probably be datable to the Late Bronze Age I. The (still very few) pottery fragments found in the context, their ware groups, the decorations of the fragments as well as characteristic rims forms lead us to a preliminary dating into the LBA I period (see below). The southern part of W^S4, the *tannour* and the burial of the child are covered by a thin ash layer. On top of this ashes two seal impressions were found (for details see below). One, a cylinder seal impression, unrolled on a handle of small jar shows the same complex motif as the impression found 2009 in the northern palace area[35]. The other one, a square cut stamp seal, stamped again on the handle, but this time of a storage jar, shows a human figurine as well as an animal. From the modern rubble west of wall W^S9a-b came forth a rectangular stamp, made of clay, showing an incised, highly stylized animal plate. A painted Mycenaean animal figurine, similar to the one found 2009 in the living area of the east slope, also occurred in the modern rubble covering the southern part of the trench (see below, small finds).

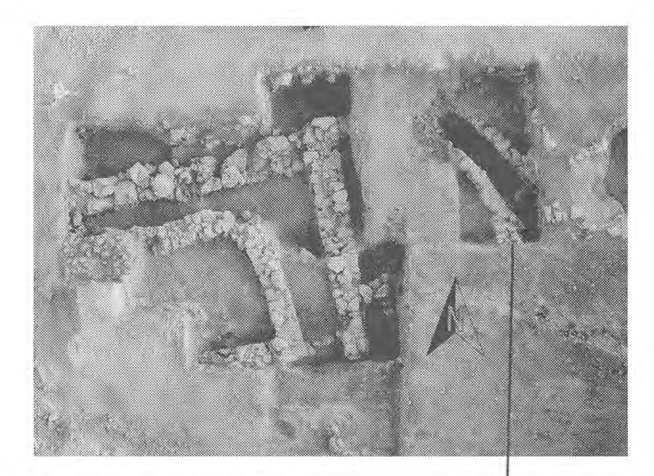




Fig. 20- An installation east of wall W^S4 / so-called administrative area.

2.2.3. An installation east of wall WS4

At about 3,50m east of wall W^S4 an elongated oval installation has been exposed[36], formed by two small, stone built walls, (walls W^S10 (south) and W^S11 (north)). The stones had been carefully worked at the inner side of the installation and in addition had been covered with a plaster made of chalk (**Fig. 20**). Both walls had been placed on the brick rubble of the burnt predecessor building that also formed the foundation layer of wall W^S4. The foundation of the walls resp. the top layer of the burnt bricks has been maintained around the walls at a level of 942,10m, the burnt rubble covered the inside of the installation up to a level of 942,50m. The floor of the installation consisted of an approximately 15cm thick layer of chalk, laid out at a

level of 942,10m. This layer of chalk in turn covered, in the southern part of the installation, a solid piece of charcoal (see **Fig. 20**), probably a burned wooden beam under the chalk plaster which once formed the floor between the two walls. Stratigraphy and pottery clearly place this installation into the MBA II context.

2.2.4. Activities and functions according to our results 2010

During the Late Bronze Age (LBA I) the inhabitants of Kamid el-Loz re-used and overbuild the older MBA II structures and the burnt rubble accumulated in the administration area, as they had done in the palace context. A reconstruction of activities carried out in this Late Bronze Age building is not yet possible. The house had been connected to a courtyard, a tannour in this courtyard hints at household activities and the neighbourhood of this building to the palace should have given it a corresponding significant meaning. The courtyard has been used for burying a child, placed in a pithos, without any burial gifts and thus without any noticeable signs of status (see above, Preliminary insights).

The Middle Bronze Age II structure represents a building of presumably monumental size. Its assumed monumentality as well as its immediate neighbourhood to the MBA II palace should have provided it as well with a certain status. The seal impression resp. the seal stemming from the space-fillings hint at least at the necessity at this time to provide objects with proprietary notes.

2.2.5. The Middle Bronze Age II structure – excavated 2011

Our work and research in the administrative area continued along the lines of our work in 2010 (**Fig. 16**). The area was enlarged to the north in order to further reconstruct the MBA – building.

2.2.5.1 Description of results in Area west

Wall W^S9 (area I-h-18) has been exposed in its northern part, probably connected to wall W^S13 in the north, while wall W^S13 is connected to wall W^S12 in the east (**Fig. 17**). Together with wall W^S5 they form room 2 / 2011 of the MBA II building (area I-h-18). Room 2 encompasses about 30 sqm, the floor level could not been grasped. In the western part of room 2/2011, wall W^S15 is connected to W^S9 and reaches west. Once W^S15 and a possible western continuation of wall W^S13 could have formed a passage, further research has to clarify this structure. Another passage / entrance between wall W^S12 and W^S5 connects room 2/2011 with a yet unknown room/area or courtyard to its west.

2.2.5.2 Description of results in Area east

In addition to our research on the architectural layout and the space design of the place should the season 2011 answer questions concerning the building history of the area. A deep sounding east of the administrative building (area II-h-1) contained the architectural answer to our historical interests (**Fig. 21**). Two new structures have been excavated that shed new light on the building and destruction history during the Middle Bronze Age period in Kamid el-Loz. A massive construction, here called "wall", W^S14 (although the function of this construction seems to have been another one than that of a wall), runs from the southwest to the northeast, captured 2011 on a length of 3,50m. Wall W^S14 consists of two structural elements. The substructure of this wall encompasses up to date nine irregular layers of in size homogenous stones excavated up to a height of more than 2m, the foundation layer of this wall has probably been reached at 939,63m. The stone substructure has been overbuild by one layer of bricks on which

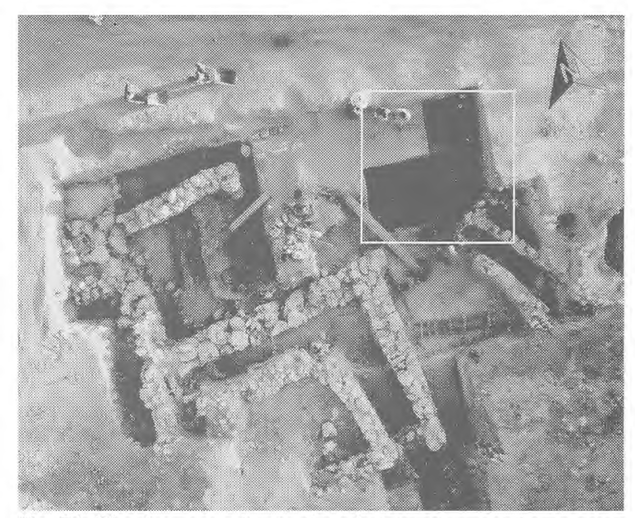


Fig. 21- The deep sounding in the administrative area / area east – aerial photography.

one to two layers of smaller and larger stones have been placed. This superstructure has been covered by only one! row of bricks. The construction of wall W^S14 led to two different looking wall facades. While the northern façade was characterized by the irregular appearance of the large stones, the southern façade showed a "cover" of in parts worked stones, some of them broken, that formed one constructional unit with the bricks surrounding it and the superstructure. An explanation for the façade – design might be found when placing the construction into its immediate surrounding context. Wall W^S14 is currently seen as a detached single massive wall against which the burnt rubble of the buildings in this area had been fallen and accumulated south of that wall. The wall W^S14 itself had then been covered by several layers of ashes and brown to blackish earth, forming a steep slope running down from south to north (**Fig. 22**), which had later been leveled to stabilize the slope area and at the same time to form the basis for the following younger MBA II buildings. Against the northern façade did the builders heap up the mentioned layers of earth up to the youngermost stone layer of wall W^S14 and thus protected and covered its northern façade. The wall was then no more visible, but formed instead a construction for securing the slope situation in this area of the younger MBA II official buildings! The whole structure has itself been disturbed by a massive fire that even caused the crack of stones and left black burnt stones behind. (One other interpretation of the massive wall W^S14 is currently under discussion– seeing in wall W^S14 rather a safety device than a "wall" of a building, probably a kind of terrace-wall that stabilized the slope in this area already during the earlier MBA II period. Further excavations and stratigraphic research will clarify this consideration.)

At the foot of wall W^S14 the second new structure appeared at a level of 939,60 m. Two wall-like stone settings form a right angle, seemingly thus forming the corner of a room (**Fig. 23**). We do not call these stone



Fig. 22- Eastern section of the deep trench in Area east.



Fig. 23- The oldest structures reached in the deep trench / Area east.

settings "walls", because they consist of only one stone layer without any further super-structure! An intact vessel has been placed on purpose in this structure inside some kind of rectangular, carefully laid stone setting. The function of this stone setting remains to be clarified.

2.2.6. Analysis of building structures, stratigraphy, chronology and space design in the Administrative area

2.2.6.1. Area west

A floor level of the newly excavated room 2 could not yet be verified. North of wall W^S13 and thus outside room 2 we grasped a chalk-floor at 941,48m. The excavation 2011 reached the undisturbed Middle Bronze age layers at about 941,40m. W^S13, stone built, has been captured in the younger layer by level 942,30m and at its base at 941,20m. No younger brick structure had been preserved. The lowest layer of W^S13, its foundation, is based on the burnt brick layer of the older MBA II buildings. The younger layer of wall W^S12 has been preserved at 941,58m, its foundation at 941,29m. Wall W^S15 has been kept up to 941,39m in its younger layer, its foundation layer is still unclear (the lowest layer was reached at 940,55m).

2.2.6.2. Area east

Wall W^S14 in the deep sounding (area II-h-1 – undisturbed in all layers) shows its younger layer at level 941,69m, its foundation layer at 939,63m. The stone setting north of wall W^S14 has been captured in its older part at 939,60m. The stone setting was connected to MBA I / EB IV pottery, its chronological and functional connection to wall W^S14 is currently under discussion. Wall W^S14 is bordered at its southern side by a mass of burnt brick rubble stemming from the fire destruction of the older MBA II structure here (resp. the MBA I structure here – see our first chronological

information developed through the pottery analysis – 2.2.7). How this structure might have looked like is up to date unknown. Besides wall W^S14 we have not yet exposed any other element of a building belonging to the older MBA II period at this location. Wall W^S14 was itself covered with a thick layer of burnt bricks, which had been leveled by those using this rubble as the base of the younger MBA II building on the spot, so far known by rooms 1/2010 and room 2/2011.
Wall W^S14 furthermore shows signs of heavy burning on its northern façade. On top of the older MBA II brick rubble did the later builders furthermore erect the installation placed in the east.

2.2.7. Chronology

Connected to the foundation level of wall W^S14 as well as to the stone installation in the deep trench we found triangular section jars and concave base platters, both giving strong indications for the MBA I period that we might have reached at this level. The pottery evidence is still small, but a first remark concerning our chronological reflections so far given shall be made: the so-called "older MBA II buildings" in the palace area as well as in the administrative area may de facto be older and may have been built already during the MBA I period – a chronological note that awaits further evidence with the next season at Kamid el-Loz.

2.2.8. Conclusions – stratigraphy, chronology, activities, functions (**Figs 30 to 32**)

The building history as well as the destruction history of the so-called administrative area can be compared to the history of the palace. During the MBA II a massive fire destroyed the so-called older MBA II architecture which is so far represented in the administrative area by the burnt brick rubble and wall W^S14. After this destruction had occurred, the user of the area stabilized the slope by integrating the still solid wall W^S14 and built as well the so-called stone setting. The chronology of these architectural is therefore: wall W^S14 outlived the fire disaster and was still in use during the activities that followed, the stone setting was only founded after the fire destruction of the location.

Wall W^S14 has been overbuilt by wall W^S5, the younger or younger MBA II architecture of the spot as well as by the installation in the east. We face thus the following sequence of construction activities in the administrative area:
1. the older MBA II buildings, represented by burnt bricks and wall W^S14, perhaps to be dated even into the MBA I period (see **Fig. 31**).
2. the wall W^S14, still in use after the destruction of the older MBA II / MBA I architecture, the stone setting only then built, and following: (see **Fig. 31**).
3. the younger MBA II structures overrunning wall W^S14: (see **Fig. 30**).

The younger MBA II structures had then also partly been reused resp. overbuilt during the LBA I period (see **Fig. 33**).
The results 2011 further support our assumption that the so-called administrative area had been an area of elite activities, represented by massive building structures. The space design of Kamid el-Loz throughout the MBA and LBA shows the integration of the temple of Kamid el-Loz into the residential area, while the palace area and the elite activities here had clearly been separated from the daily business of Kumidi. This space design leads to the question whether the administrative area might also have been used for the religious and cultic affairs of the elite, living and acting here. An assumption of course that needs further verifications. The deep trench did further confirm the building history of the area that continued at least throughout the MBA and the LBA. And, last but not least, did the building direction of the so far oldest MBA II/I (?) structure in the administrative area, the stone setting, change! A change that is also visible between the older and the younger MBA II palace building. As explained above did the builders of the area obviously fix the slope, integrating wall W^S14 and prepared the area for further activities – which still have to be explored. One remark should be added to the forming process of the earth layers covering the area of the deep trench and wall W^S12. Two explanations are possible – on the one hand side a natural accumulation of earth may have formed these layers. On the other hand the layers accumulation could have been, as is assumed here, the result of human activities. The later explanation seems more probable, especially due to the fact that a mixture of reddish earth and sandstone, part of these layers!, does not occur in nature and should have been

men made (so a remark of the Geo-Archaeologist Dr. Konstantin Pustovoytov, visiting the site in September 2011). The layers in addition had been "clean", containing next to no potsherds. If thus the "covering" of walls W^S12 and W^S14 resp. the layers forming the slope to the north had been men made, we may face the act of intentional covering of an older building. This intentional covering at the same time might have been part of preparing and cleaning the area for the following (MBA!) building activities. A process well known from Mesopotamia, where texts of about the same time (ca. 2000 B.C.) inform in detail about this cleaning and clearing process as part of the building activities especially in cultic areas!

3. The dead in the residential area west of the temple (M. Heinz and L. Kirsch)

The residential area west of the temple (**Fig. 24**) has been settled, as we can say with certainty, during



Fig. 24- The residential area west of the temple – aerial photography.

the Middle and Late Bronze Age. An earlier settlement of the Early Bronze Age can be assumed according to the results of our deep trench, carried out in 2009 in this district[37]. A further sondage was already executed in the residential area in 2007, in courtyard Ct4 of building A[38]. The objective for the sondage was then to locate the Middle Bronze Age buildings underlying the Late Bronze Age houses. What we found besides the evidence for MBA building activities was a pit containing three interments, then named G^t1, G^t2 and G^t3, including grave goods[39]. Since the context have been published, the terminology G^t1-3 will be hold on to. Furthermore the terminology of the ensemble has been introduced in 2011, emphasizing the accumulation of human remains in two separate spots of the grave pit: "Graves" G^t1 and G^t3 represent ensemble I according to their location in space and depth, "grave" G^t2 constitutes ensemble II.

3.1. *Results of the 2011 season concerning the grave pit (graves G^t1, G^t2 and G^t3; excavated in 2007 and 2011)*

The aim of our season 2011 in the Late Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age settlement area west of the temple was to continue the investigation of the grave pit (including the so-called "graves" G^t1, G^t2 and G^t3). After removing part of the walls, W^t3 and W^t5 we were able to outline the size of the grave pit and to determine, that those remains named G^t1, G^t2 and G^t3 once formed one single context. The pit itself (**Fig. 30**) is roughly rectangular, comprises 2,80m in east-west direction and is 1,40m wide. The opening of the pit was captured at 934,70m, that is about the foundation level of walls W^t3 and W^t5. In the western part of the pit that contained "graves" G^t1 and G^t3 the ground was reached at 934,20 m (in 2007), while its eastern part, containing "grave" G^t2 reached down to a level of 933,50 m.

3.1.1. "Bone ensemble I" in the western half of the pit, "graves" G^t1 and G^t3

"Grave" G^t1 was a double funeral of an adult and an infans. The adult person in "grave" G^t1, partly excavated in 2007 and captured 2011 in toto, was oriented northeast-southwest. The adult person had been buried lying on the back (at 934,40m), the legs crouched and placed in an upright position. The head of this individual was lying on its chest in the northeast. 3 holes in its skull hint at a violent death. Next to its right hand a juglet had been placed. Additional to the head of a child found 2007, the breast and the right arm of the child could be unearthed in 2011. The head of this child had been placed in the north, the body oriented north-south.

Immediately underneath the adult person buried in "grave" G^t1 we captured, at level 934,30m, a partly maintained skeleton of a further person, juvenile to adult, in "grave" G^t3. The person of "grave" G^t3 was deposed southeast-northwest on its back with crouched legs standing upright. Instead of the skull, which is missing, a flat stone was lying in the southeast.

3.1.2. "Bone ensemble II" in the eastern part of the pit, "grave" G^t2

"Grave" G^t2, a multiple burial, laying 50 cm deeper than "grave" G^t3, at the level of 933,80m contained a high number of individuals, which led to the preliminary naming of the pit as mass-grave. Three individuals, all juvenile, have been identified by their well maintained skulls, while 2 skeletons had been maintained rather complete. One of the complete skeletons, an adult person, had been placed in the western part of this pit. The body was oriented east-west with the head in the east. The body had been laid on its back and the legs brought into a crouched position. Between the rips of this individual we found a bronze spearhead (GF^t2), probably causing the death of this person. Immediately to the east of that person, in the northeastern corner of the pit we found the second nearly complete individual (juvenile), its head placed to the east. The femurs of this individual had been placed behind its back – a position that could only have been achieved with force. Next to its left hand a little juggled had been deposited. Several small longbones, spread and scattered, indicate, that at least one child was buried there as well. Furthermore we unearthed some bones, partly articulated, of a baby. The remains described so far represent 7 individuals. More bones occurred in the southeast of the pit (lying

underneath wall W^{t}5), verifying the burial of several more persons (iuvenil and adult) which however could not yet be identified as individuals. The occurrence of two large-sized complete legs and feet have been striking, found without any connection to further parts of a skeleton and as such a further hint to violent treatment and mutilation of the humans, either the living or the dead. The deposition of a further juglet at the eastern side of the pit hint to a kind of dignified burial even for the disposed human bodyparts.

3.1.3. Conclusion

The grave pit contained in all at least 10, probably more individuals (3 bodies recognized in ensemble I, and 7 bodies so far to be assigned as individuals in ensemble II). At least two of the dead, one of "grave" G^{t}1 and one of "grave" G^{t}2 show obvious signs of a violent death. If the mutilations of the other skeletons also caused the death of the buried persons or had been post-mortem treatments, has to be verified by further anthropological studies (**Fig. 25**).



Fig. 25- Details of the so-called mass-grave G^{t}1-3: parts of ensemble G^{t}2.

3.2. Graves G^{t}5, G^{t}6 and G^{t}7

By cleaning and preparing the area in the immediate neighborhood of the grave pit new insights concerning the history of functions and activities in this area occurred. In 2011 we deepened the northern part of room 18 of house B down to the foundation level of wall W^{t}5 at 934,70m. Immediately at the bottom of a burnt layer, covered by the floor of that room (level 935,30m), fragments of the skeletons of two young children (toddler) occurred. The child in grave G^{t}5 had been buried on its right hand side, with its head to the east, the legs crouched. No burial pit has been verified. Grave G^{t}6, more or less a collection of bones of another child, have been discovered without any signs of a burial construction at the northern end of wall W^{t}35. In order to continue our research on the grave pit we pulled down wall W^{t}5 and the southern part of wall W^{t}3. While demolishing wall W^{t}5, a fragmented pot occurred at the eastern end of this wall, containing a few bones that indicate the burial of a newborn child (grave G^{t}7). Graves G^{t} 5, G^{t}6 and G^{t}7 are clearly separated from the burials in the grave pit!

3.3. Stratigraphy and chronology

The graves G^{t}5, G^{t}6 and G^{t}7, child's burials, are not connected to the large grave – pit, but to the houses H and B. Grave G^{t}5 had been placed 30cm underneath the youngermost floor level in the middle of room 18 in house B. Either had the burial been placed here during the use of house B, that is during the LBA I period or earlier, before the house had been erected. Grave G^{t}6 had been placed at the northern end of wall W^{t}35, grave G^{t}5 at the eastern end of wall W^{t}5. In both cases did the walls and the graves existed side by side, no wall cut one of the graves. The occurrence of the graves in the described contexts allows again two chronological solutions for their placement – they have been set into the context during the use of the houses, that is during the LBA I period or during a period of time, when the houses had been left, that is during the post LBA I period.

The grave pit is located partly underneath walls W^{t}3 and W^{t}5 and thus older than building A and B, which belong to the LBA I period. The pit has furthermore

been deepened into the MBA II context. The pit contained MBA II pottery, among others fragments of hole mouth cooking pots. The complete vessels placed into the pit confirm the dating of this grave pit into the MBA II period. No architectural evidence connected with the pit has so far been discovered.

3.4. *Interpretation*

The probably violent death of at least two people and the cutting up of several of the individuals (whether this treatment caused their death or was done after they had died, has still to be clarified) may indicate warlike conditions in the area. The mass grave has been set up during MBA II, the houses above were built during the LBA I period. What actually happened during this time span is still unknown. Interestingly enough, after the MBA II the temple area shows a hiatus and was only resettled during the LBA I, the temple area, the palace and the administrative area all suffered from violent destruction at the end of the MBA II. What actually happened in Kamid el-Loz and whether the interruption of the settlement activities, the violent destruction of the settlement and the violent death of so many people were causal connected, remains an open question at the moment.

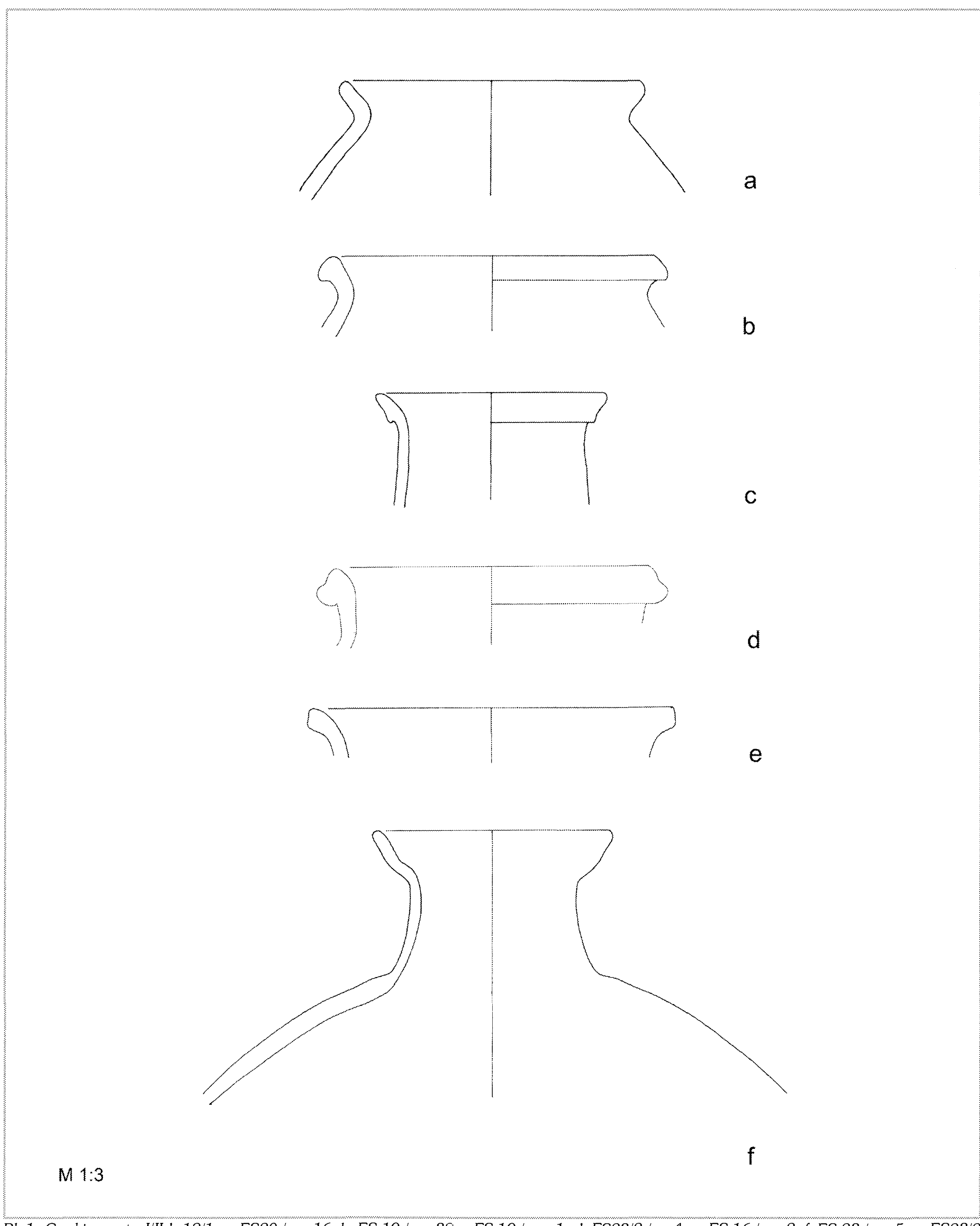
4. Some preliminary remarks concerning the pottery of the 2010 and 2011 seasons: The Middle Bronze Age pottery (A. Catanzariti)

(Pls 1 to 15, Fig. 26 and Tab. 1)

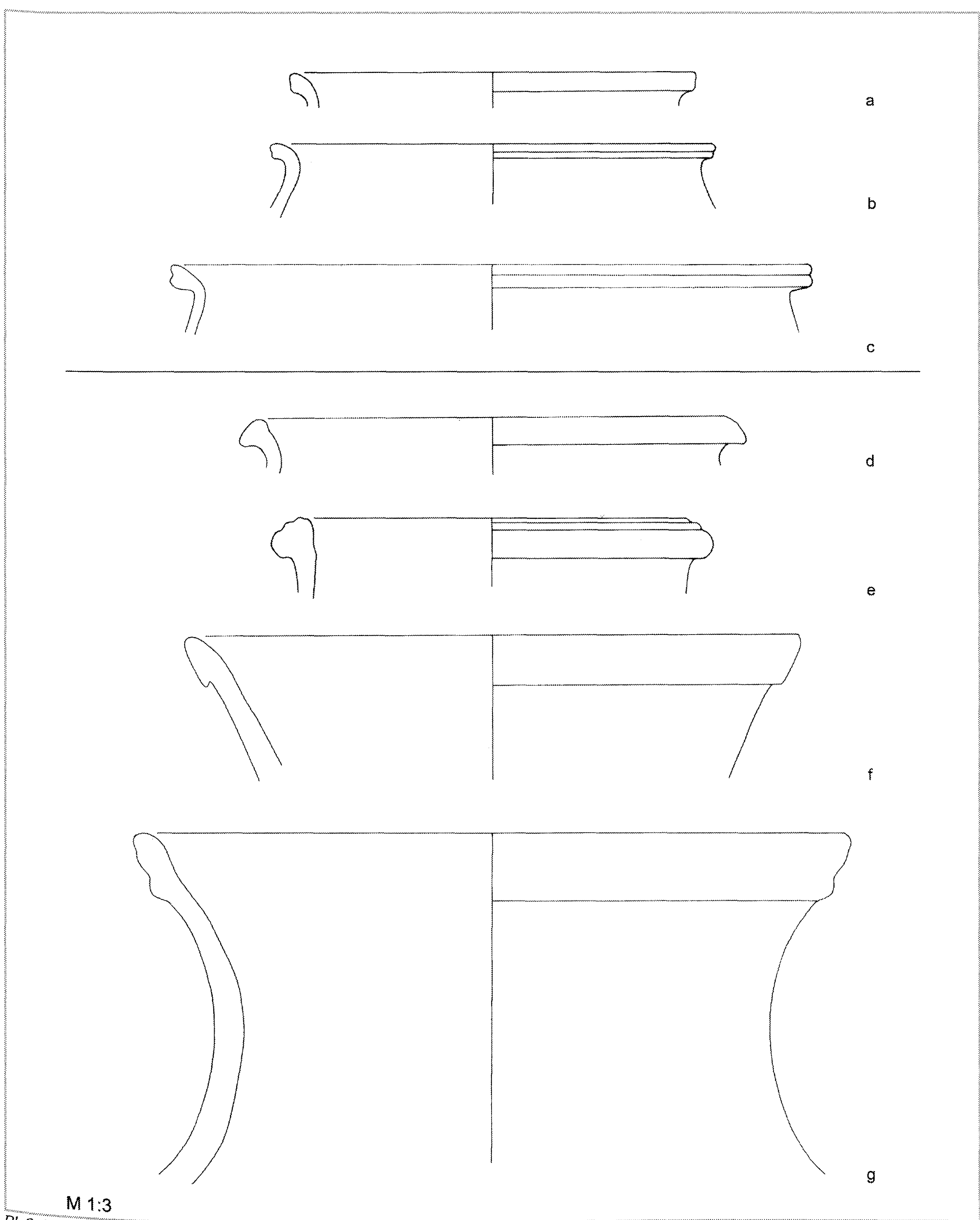
Pottery research on the Late Bronze Age material, as well as on the Middle Bronze Age pottery, is ongoing. Some preliminary remarks shall provisionally illustrate the results of the 2010 and 2011 seasons (**Pls 1 to 15 and Fig. 26**).

The excavation conducted in the Palace area and in the Administrative area in 2010 and 2011, and in the residential quarter in 2011, has led to important results in the study of ceramic vessels in the Beqa'a. During these two seasons, it was possible to collect new information regarding the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) ceramic vessel types present at Kamid el-Loz. In general, we can observe that one of the best represented pottery types at the site is the carinated bowl (**Pl. 10**). This type of bowl illustrates a rounded carination, a simple everted rim or internal indentation and a high neck. Furthermore, the surface is often burnished with vertical lines along the neck and horizontal lines on the body. Besides the carinated bowls, there is also a wide variety of platter bowls burnished on the inner side and on the rim (**Pl. 3**). Additional information on the painted pottery of MBA Kamid el-Loz has been gained thanks to the presence of body sherds and of almost complete vessels with geometric and animal motifs. The excavation of Room 7 of the Palace building (see 1.2.1.2) revealed an interesting inventory of ceramic vessels datable to the MBA II period which will be further discussed below. Moreover, the extension of the excavation on the northern side of the Palace area uncovered the presence of some MBA pottery and, in particular, of a body sherd of the Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware type (**Pl. 11c**). During the excavation of the Administrative area, several burnished bowls presenting a rounded carination and simple rims, and burnished platters with a concave ring base or a flat base were uncovered. All are datable to the MBA II period. During the excavation of the older levels of the deep trench conducted in this area (see **Figs 21 to 23**), some MBA I period sherds were found, such as triangular section rim jars (**Pl. 1c**) and straight wall cooking pots (**Pl. 11a**). Additionally, an Early Bronze Age body sherd was also uncovered (**Pl. 16**). It is possible to observe similarities between the pottery found in the palace with that found in the Administrative area, especially between the burnished carinated bowls, the platters and the painted vessels with geometric or simple band motifs.

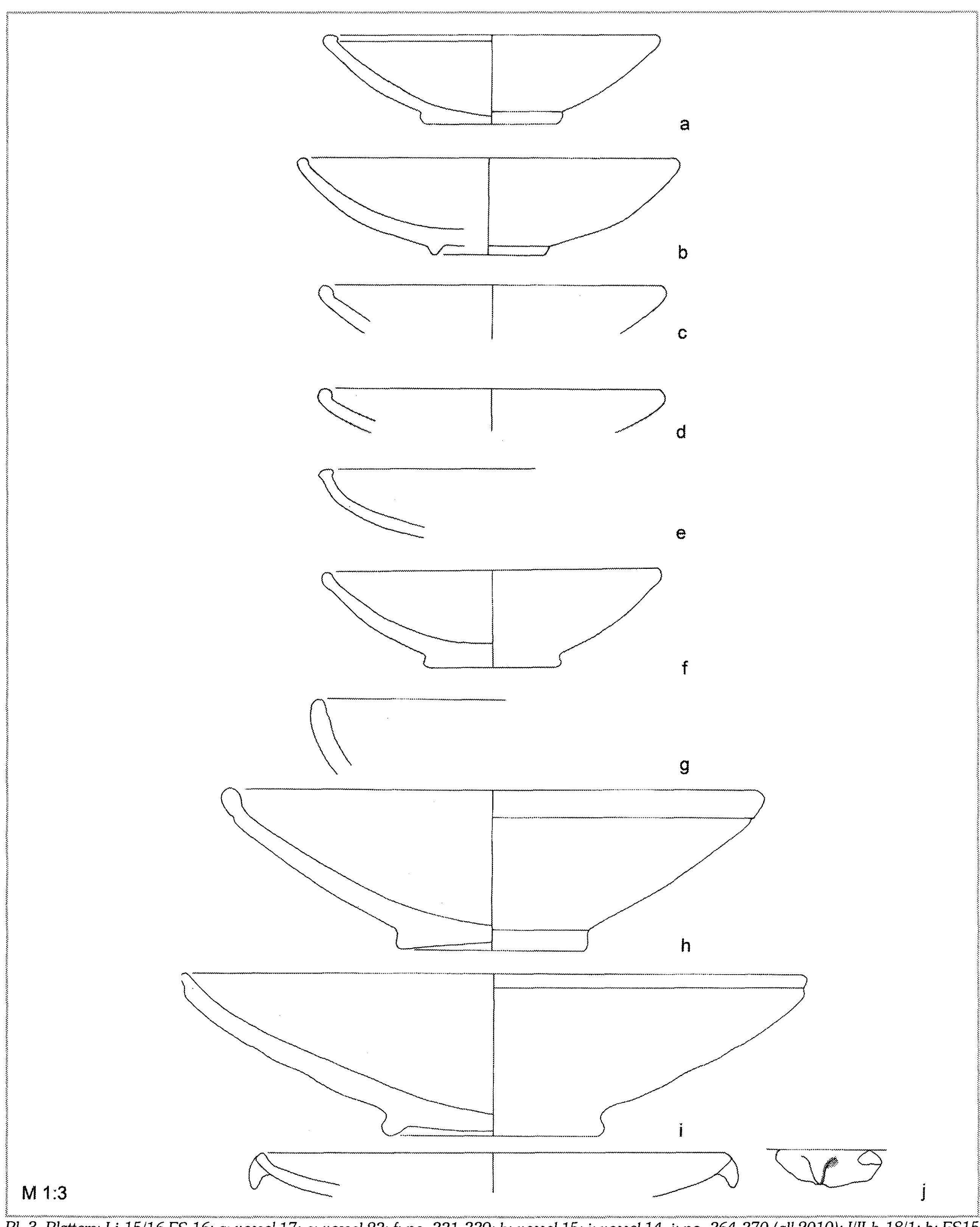
Comparisons for the ceramic vessels form Kamid el-Loz can be found In the Beqa'a at the site of Tell el-Ghassil (Doumet-Serhal 1996) and Tell Hizzin (Genz – Sader in press), and in the coastal sites of Lebanon, such as Tell Arqa (Thalmann 2006), Sidon (Doumet-Serhal 2008) and Burak. Similarities corresponding to Kamid el-Loz pottery can be distinguished in vessels from southern and western Syria (e.g. Sakka, Yabroud, Ugarit) as also in those from the southern Levant, for example, from the sites of Shechem and Tell Dan.



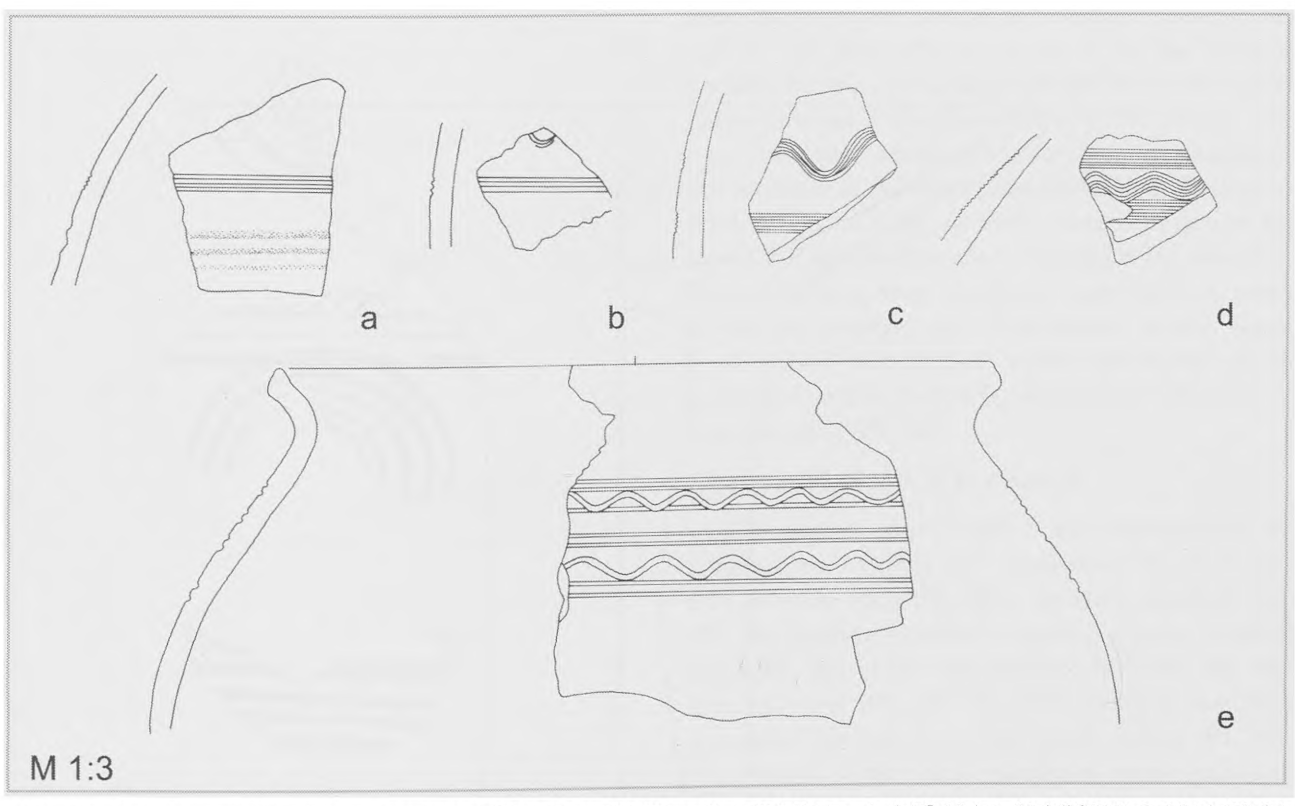
Pl. 1- Cooking pots: I/II-h-18/1: a: FS20 /no. 16; b: FS 19 /no. 38 c: FS 19 / no. 1; d: FS23/2 /no 4; e: FS 16 /no. 2; f: FS 23 /no. 5; g: FS23/2 /no. 7; h: FS 19 /no. 19; i: I/II-h-18/1 FS 18 / no. 7; j: FS 16 /no. 8 (all 2011); k: I-i-15/16 FS 16 / Vessel 10 (2010).



Pl. 2- Plate: above: cooking pots below: esp. large vessels /storage jars: I-i-15/16: a: FS16 /no. 408; b: FS16 / no. 471; g: FS16 /no. 27 (all 2010); I/II-h-18/1: c: FS24 / no. 38 (2010); d: FS 15 /no. 53-54 (2011); f: FS 8 /no.14 (2011); e: I-i-14/15: FS30 /no. 21-22 (2011).



Pl. 3- Platters: I-i-15/16 FS 16: a: vessel 17; e: vessel 23; f: no. 331-339; h: vessel 15; i: vessel 14, j: no. 364-370 (all 2010); I/II-h-18/1: b: FS15 /no. 15; c: FS 20 /no. 21; d: FS 23/2 /no. 3; g: FS 20 /no. 23 (all 2011).



Pl. 4- Sherds and vessel with incisions / decoration: I/II-h-18/1: a: FS 23 /no. 3; c: FS23/3 /no. 4; d: FS 19 /no. 30 (all 2011); b: I-f-14: FS 4 / no. 41 (2011); e: I-i-15/16 FS 16 /no. Vessel 38 (2010).
§

4.1. The Palace Area

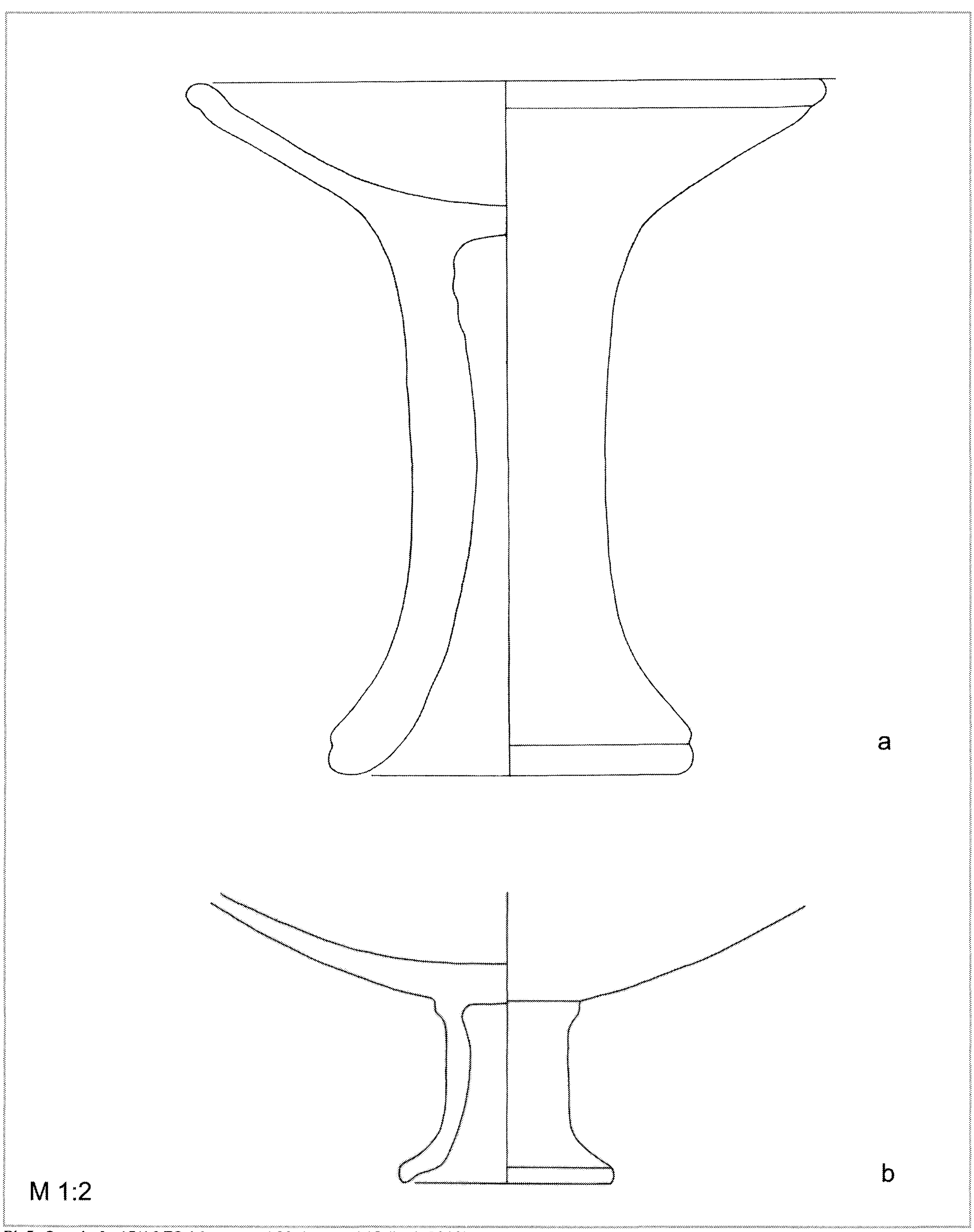
4.1.1. The pottery of room 7 in the younger Middle Bronze Age palace.

During the 2010 excavation season, a pottery inventory was identified in the northern part of the younger Middle Bronze Age palace. The assemblage was uncovered in room 7 of the palace. The area we cleared in I-i-16 had been covered with several "layers" of burnt debris, burnt debris of 1,15 m in height (between 941,90 m and 940,75 m above sea level). Mainly, between W^P30, W^P41 and W^P18, these "layers" differed in their composition allowing for some reflections concerning the process of the building's collapse[40]. Approximately 60cm of the rubble belonging to the younger Middle Bronze Age Palace (941,90m – 941,30m) included primarily a mix of ashes, burnt wood, mud-bricks and a high amount of broken pottery (**Pl. 9**, see 1.2.1.2). The room has revealed 42 ceramic vessels datable to the MBA II and late MBA II period. With the exception of a few examples, the collection is composed of medium ware ceramic vessels. The inventory includes 4 pithoi (**Pl. 2g**), 4 juglets, 3 small jars, 1 jug, 4 cooking pots (one of which has two handles), 1 lamp, 2 stand calices (**Pl. 5a and b**), 18 platters (**Pl. 3a, e, f, h, i and j**) and 10 bowls (**Pl. 10i**). A particular treatment on the surface of the pottery, the burnishing technique, is visible on the inside of the platters and on the outside of the carinated bowls. Besides the presence of pithoi, the majority of the uncovered vessels from room 7 is composed of a high percentage of dinning vessels.

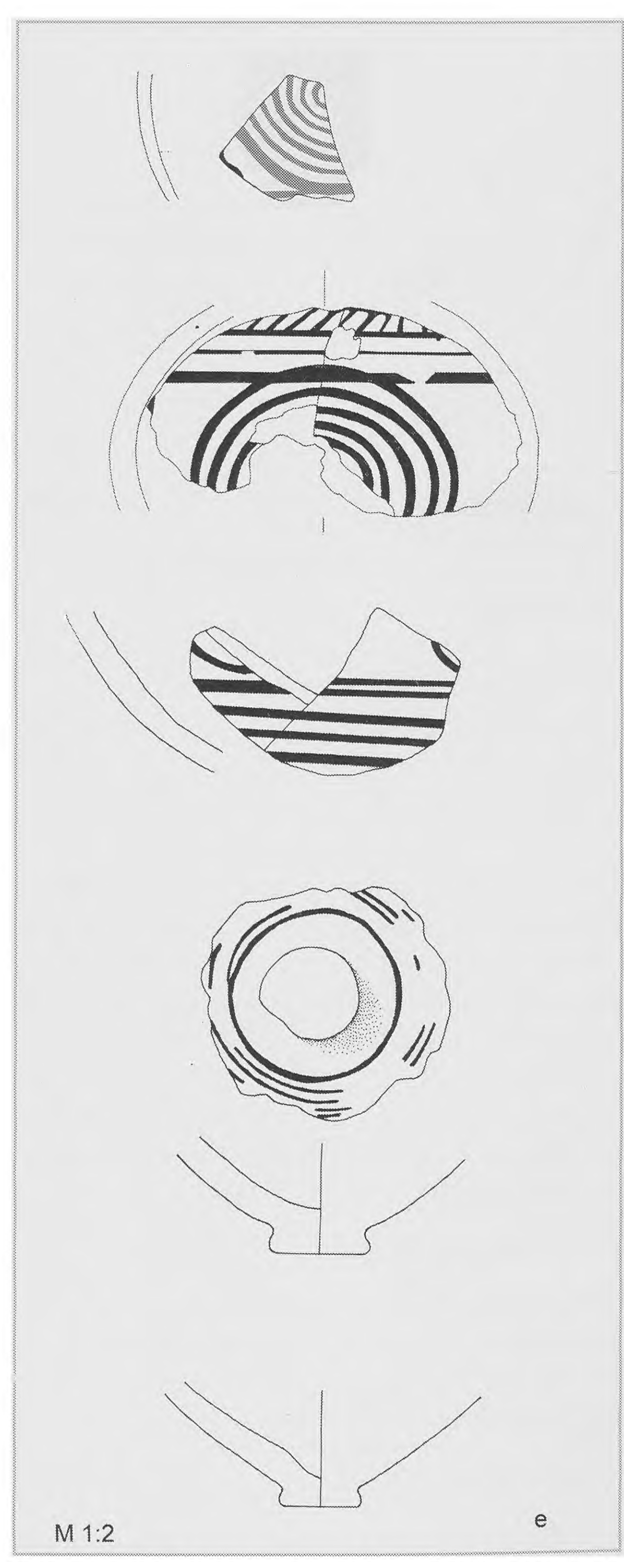
*Bowls (***Pl. 4e; Pl. 10f***)*

Medium ware bowls with a rounded carination, short neck and rounded rim (**Pl. 10f**), and a small bowl with a sharp carination and a squared rim are attested. The surface of the bowls with a rounded carination is burnished with zigzag lines on the neck.

Comparisons for the carinated bowls are available



Pl. 5- Stands: I-i-15/16 FS 16: a: vessel 39; b: vessel 12 (both 2010).



Pl. 6- Painted sherds with circles and bases (small bottom base): a: I-i-14/15 FS 10 /No. 1 (2011); b: III-a-15/16 stray find / no. 1-3 (2010); c: I/II-h-18/1 FS1 /no. 34-35 (2011); d: I-f-14 FS 4 /no. 5 (2011); e: I-i-15/16 FS 25 /no. 31 (2011).

from the southern Levant at Shechem (Cole 1984, 124 pl. 14; ibid 129, pl. 15 n. a). In the Beqa'a, parallels for the carinated bowls can be found at Tell Ghassil niveau X (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 194 pl. 12); from the coast, comparisons for a sharp carination are available at Tell Arqa phase M/MBA II (Thalmann 2006, pl.98, n.1-19); in Syria, comparisons can be found at Yabroud (Braemer - Maqdisī 2002, 44 n.55). One interesting deep bowl was uncovered in room 7, with an everted rim. The surface of the vessel is decorated with incised motifs composed of an undulated pattern framed by two bands, with a line of dots following (**Pl. 4e**).

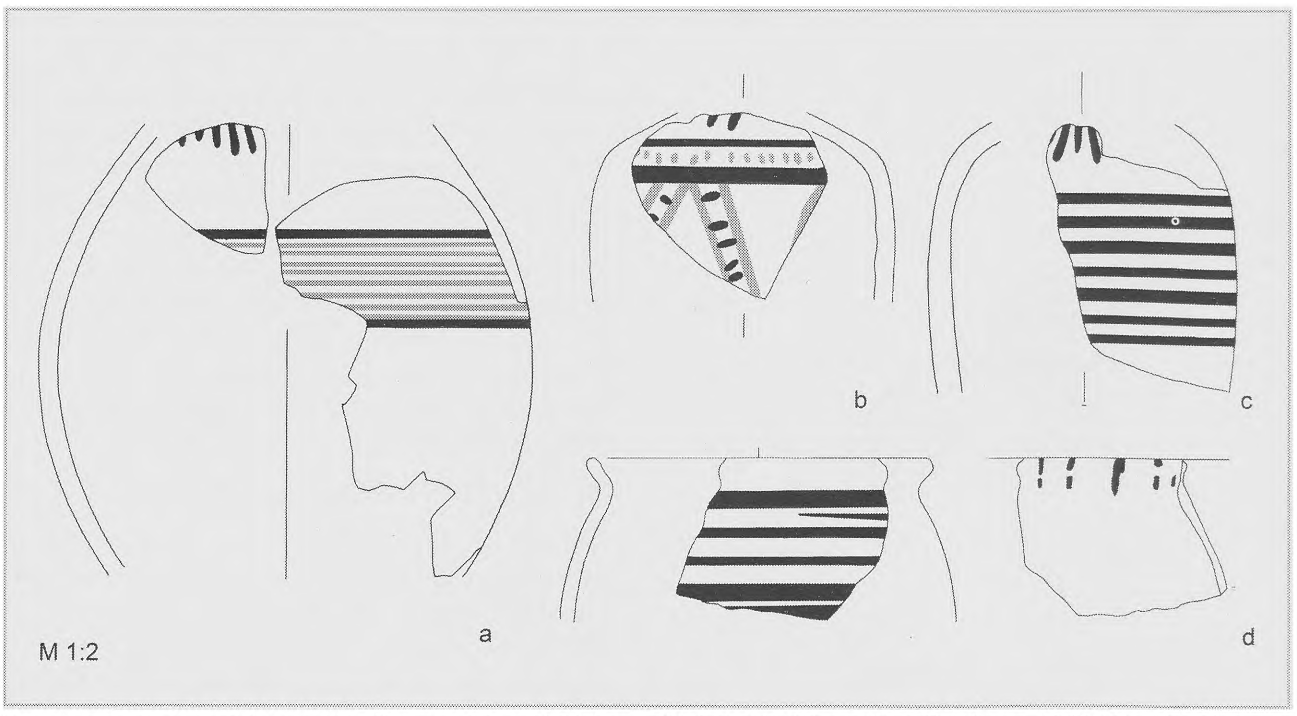
***Platters* (Pl. 3a, e, f, h, i and j)**

The platters from room 7 are characterized by diverse types of rims, such as inverted rounded rims with external edge (**Pl. 3h**), undercut inverted rims (**Pl. 3a**), rounded inverted rims with everted external edge (**Pl. 3e**), externally profiled rims (**Pl. 3i**) and rounded rims (**Pl. 3f**). Another example illustrates a squared rim with two sided plastic ledges (**Pl. 3j**). The internal surface of the platters is concentrically or radially burnished. These vessels are provided with a concave disc base, a flat disc or a ring base.

Parallels for the Kamid el-Loz platters, in particular for those exhibiting the burnishing technique, can be found at Shechem (Cole 1984, 109, pl.5, pl. 3 n. i,k); comparisons for the pottery shape are also available at Ugarit (Courtois 1978, 205 Fig.3, 207 Fig. 3) and at tell el Farah levels 1 and 2 (Mallet 1988, Fig. 3 n.3)

***Painted ware* (Pl. 7a, c and d)**

Among the painted ware, body sherds of juglets with series of bichrome band decorations and ticks at the level of the neck have been revealed (**Pl. 7a**). The same decoration was detected on a cylindrical juglet found in the administrative area (**Pl. 7c**). Comparisons for this painted ware can be found at Ruweise t. 62, Lebanon (Bagh 2002, 90 Fig. 1 6/VI), at Ugarit in Syria, Ugarit Moyen 2[41] (Schaeffer 1949, Fig. 100 n. 12-18) and at Sukkas (Thrane 1978, 34 Fig. 80 n.87). Another painted vessel is a globular bowl which illustrates red ticks on the inside of the everted rim and a series of bands below the neck of the vessel (**Pl. 7d**). A similar vessel was found at Ugarit and was dated to the MBA II/LBA I transitional phase (Courtois



Pl. 7- Painted vessels: a +d: I-i-15/16 FS16 vessel 34 und FS 16 /no. 408 (both 2010); b-c: I/II-h-18/1 FS8 /no. 44 (2011) and FS33 /no. 1 (2010).

1978, 213 Fig. 6 n.3). Chocolate on White Ware was also found (**Pl. 9d**); the presence of such ware should not be considered as an anomaly as this was produced from the later phase of the MBA II period until the first part of the LBA, as pointed out by Peter Fisher in his study of the Chocolate on White Ware at Abu al-Kharaz, Jordan (Fischer 2006, 255).

***Cooking pots* (Pl. 2a and b)**

Cooking pots show everted rims (**Pl. 2a**) or profiled everted rims (**Pl. 2b**). Comparisons for these cooking pots can be found respectively at Tell Ghassil niveaux IX and VIII of the MBA II/MBA IIC (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 215 pl.41 n.24; 223 pl. 41 n.13). Additionally, another type of cooking pot found in room 7 is characterized by an everted rim with two handles; a comparison for this vessel is available at Tell el-Ghassil niveau VIII (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 222, pl.40 n.11).

***Phitoi and jars* (Pl. 2g and Pl. 1f)**

Pithoi are characterized by rounded profiled rims (**Pl. 2g**). String marks are visible towards the base and on the body of the vessel, the surface of which is uneven. The surface is decorated with a fish scale pattern. Comparisons for this type of pithos can be found at Tell el-Ghassil niveaux VIII-IX (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 271 n. 2; 209 n. 8; 221 n. 11), datable to the MBA II period.

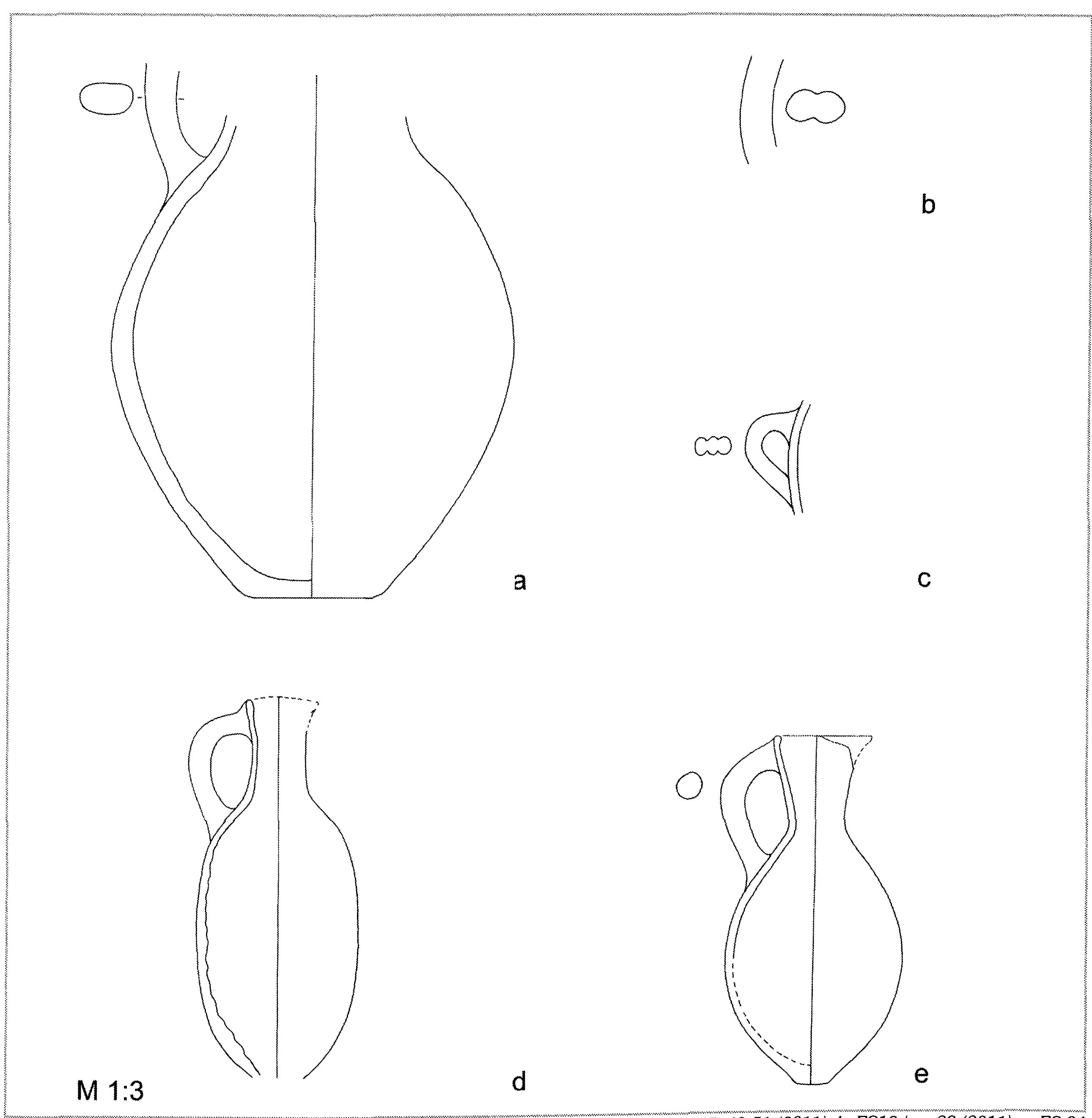
Among the jars, we must mention the presence of an exemplar showing a rounded everted rim and a high neck (**Pl. 1f**).

***Dipper juglets* (Pl. 8d)**

One almost complete fine ware, dipper juglet was uncovered in room 7, with a round base and vertical handle, burnished on the external surface and with visible coiling marks on the interior.

***Stands* (Pl. 5a and b)**

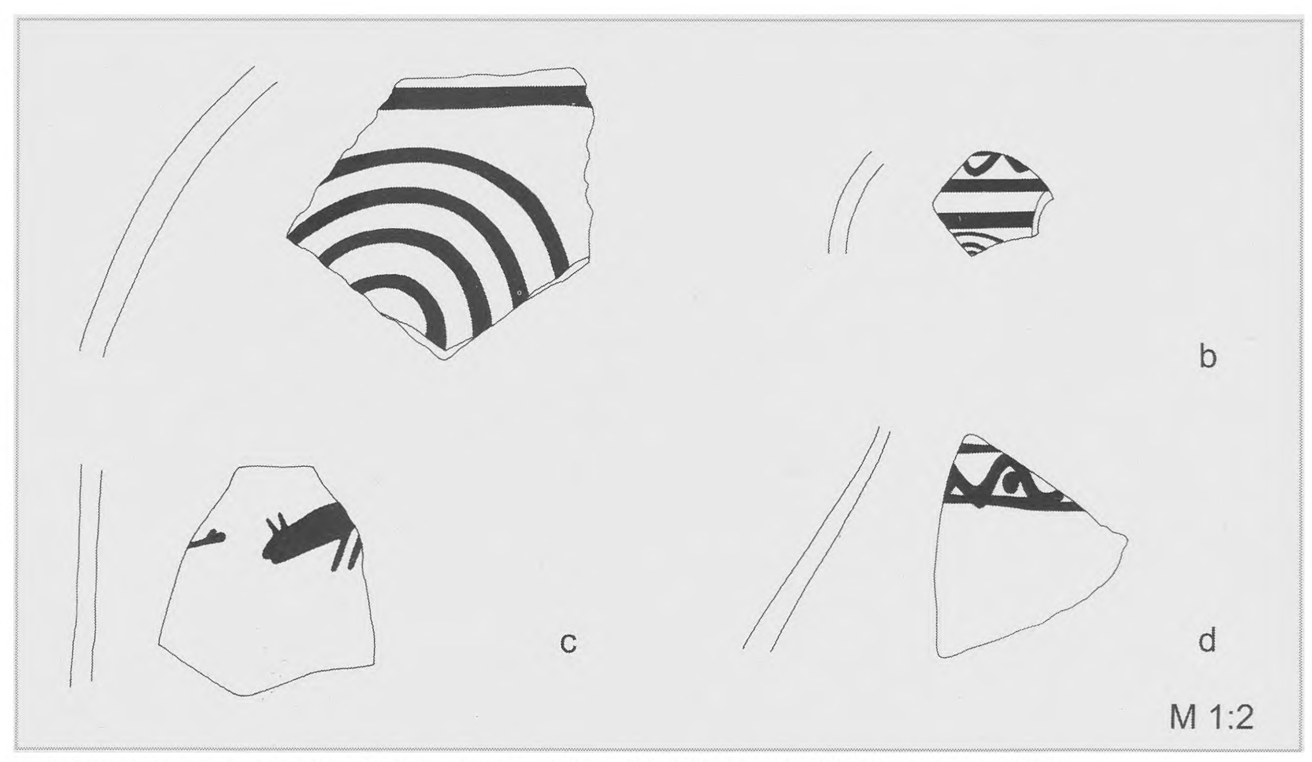
Two stands were found. One was interiorly burnished, showing a short stand and a simple rim, (**Pl. 5b**) while the second had a tall stand and rounded inverted rim (**Pl. 5a**).



Pl. 8- Complete jugs and handles (double and triple stranded): I/II-h-18/1: a: FS 15 /no. 43-45, 49-51 (2011); b: FS19 /no. 29 (2011); c: FS 24 /no. 2 (2010); d: I-i-15/16: FS16 /vessel 6 (2010); e: GF'2.

4.1.2. The pottery from the eastern side of wall W^P41, north of the younger Middle Bronze Age palace.

The pottery uncovered in this area during the 2011 excavation season (see 1.2.1.5) can be dated to the MBA II period. Principally, we must mention the presence of cooking pots with profiled rims and ridges on the top (**Pl. 2e**) with parallels from Tell el-Ghassil, niveau X (Doumet-Serhal 1996, pl. 18 p. 200) MBA IIB/MBA II. A painted ware with circular motifs, typical of the Levantine Painted Ware (**Pl. 6a**),



Pl. 9- Painted sherds: a-c: I/II-h-18/1: FS 15 /no. 28 and FS20 / no. 1 (all 2011); d: I-i-15/16: FS16 /no. 437 (2010).

was exposed in room R13, at the corner between W^P20 and W^P41. This painted ware is well attested in the MBA II period of Kamid el-Loz in the palace area, as well as in other sites located in the Lebanese coast (e.g. Sidon), the southern Levant (e.g. Tell Dan) and in southern Syria (e.g. Tell Sakka). A general study of the LPW decorations is present in "Painted Pottery of the Beginning of the Middle Bronze Age: Levantine Painted Ware" by Tine Bagh (Bagh 2002, 89-101).

Bowls are well attested such as late Middle Bronze Age II ring base bowls with simple everted rims and slightly rounded shoulders (**Pl. 10a**), a flat disc base bowl with a slight carination, an upright neck and simple everted rim (**Pl. 10b**), and Middle Bronze Age II bowls with a rounded carination, short neck and rounded everted rims (**Pl. 10g**). Very common is the presence of body sherds with combed decorations, a motif frequently applied on jars or craters from the MBA I to the MBA II period.

An Early Bronze Age sherd with a combed decoration was also recovered while removing the soil covering the southern part of W^P51 (**Fig. 26**)[42].

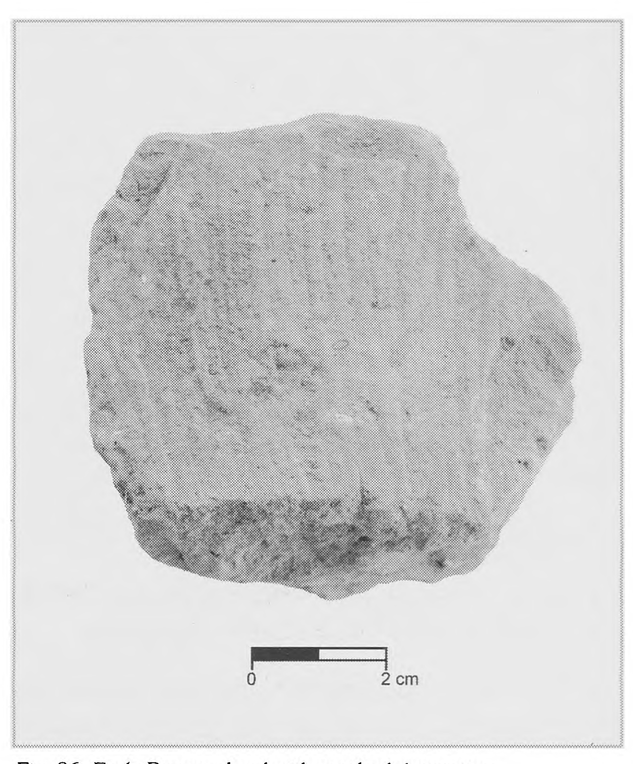
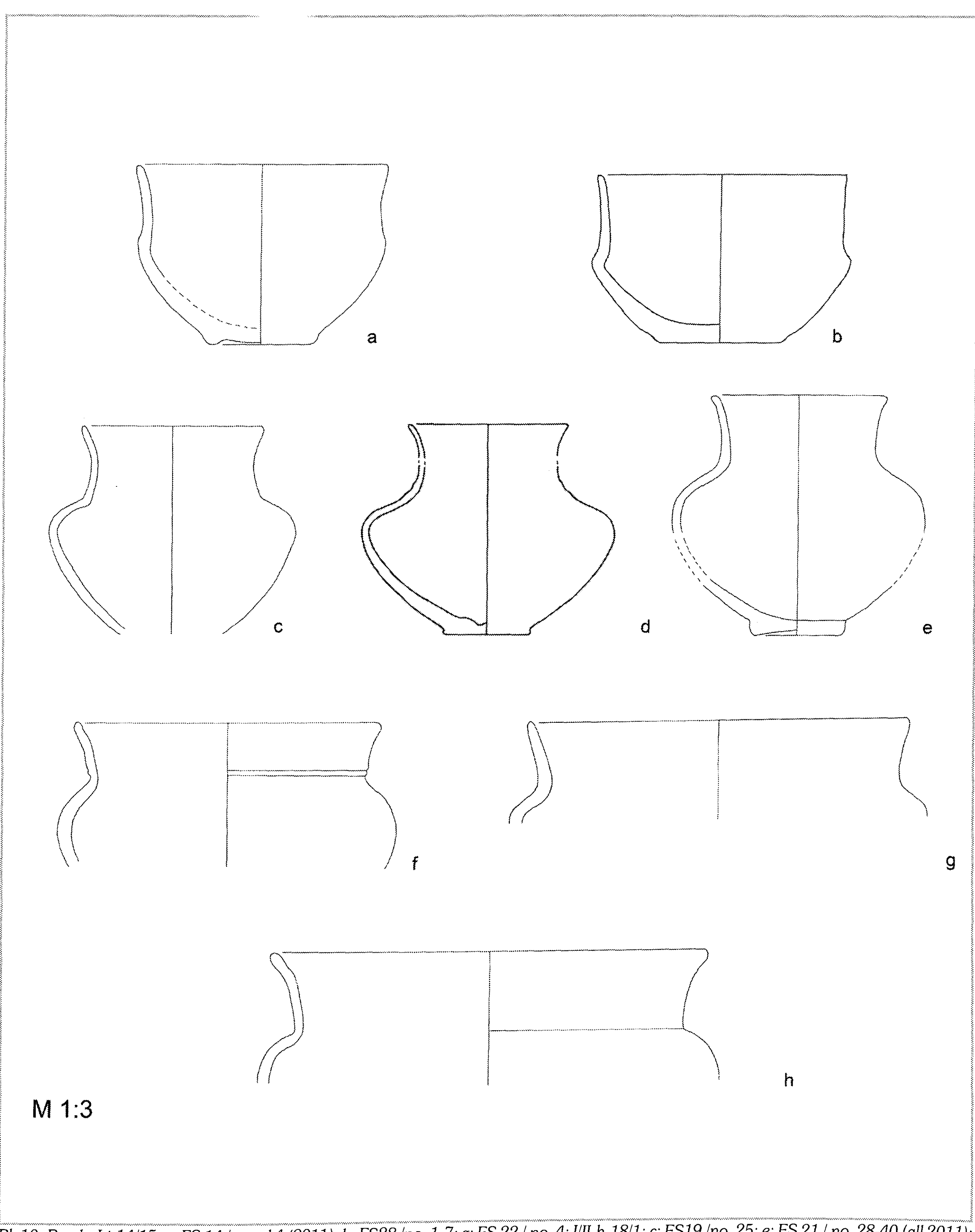
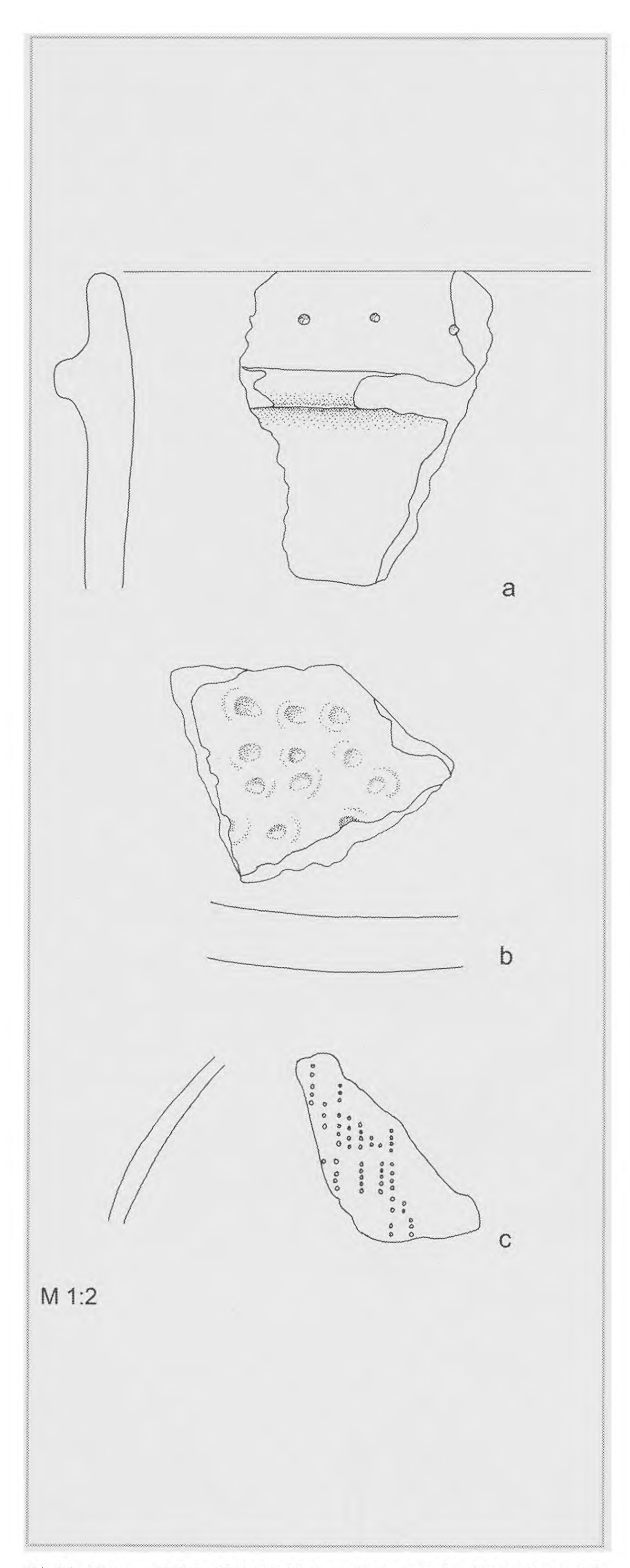


Fig. 26- Early Bronze sherd with combed decoration.



Pl. 10- Bowls: I-i-14/15: a: FS 14 /vessel 4 (2011); b: FS28 /no. 1-7; g: FS 22 / no. 4; I/II-h-18/1: c: FS19 /no. 25; e: FS 21 / no. 28-40 (all 2011); h: FS 21 / no. 23-27; I-i-15/16: d: FS 25 /no. 2-26 (2011); f: FS 16 /no. 420 (2010).



Pl. 11- Varia: a: I/II-h-18/1 FS 18 /no. 10; b: I-i-15/16 FS 19 /no. 16; c: FS25 /no. 27 (all 2011).

4.1.3. The pottery uncovered north of W^{P}40 (see here 1.1.3)

On the northern side of W^{P}40 (area I-i-15/16), MBA and LBA transitional ceramic vessels were discovered. Among the ceramic vessels uncovered is a goblet (**Pl. 14**) with a rounded ring base and everted rim, with painted tick motifs on the interior. The goblet has a white slip surface on the exterior and, on the older section of the carination of the bowl, there is a painted monochrome zigzag motif framed between two bands. The motif runs horizontally around the bowl. Parallels for the shape of this bowl can be found at Beth Mirsim E (Amiran 1970, 98 pl.28 n.10) and are datable to the MBA II/MBA II B-C period. In the Beqa'a, a goblet similar in shape to that present at Kamid el-Loz can be found at Tell el-Ghassil niveau VII, datable to the LBA I period (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 226 pl. 44 n.11). The decoration is present on late MBA II and as well on LBA I period vessels, mainly on Chocolate on White Ware vessels. We can suggest that the Kamid el-Loz globlet is a late MBA II period vessel or a MBAII/LBA I transitional phase production.

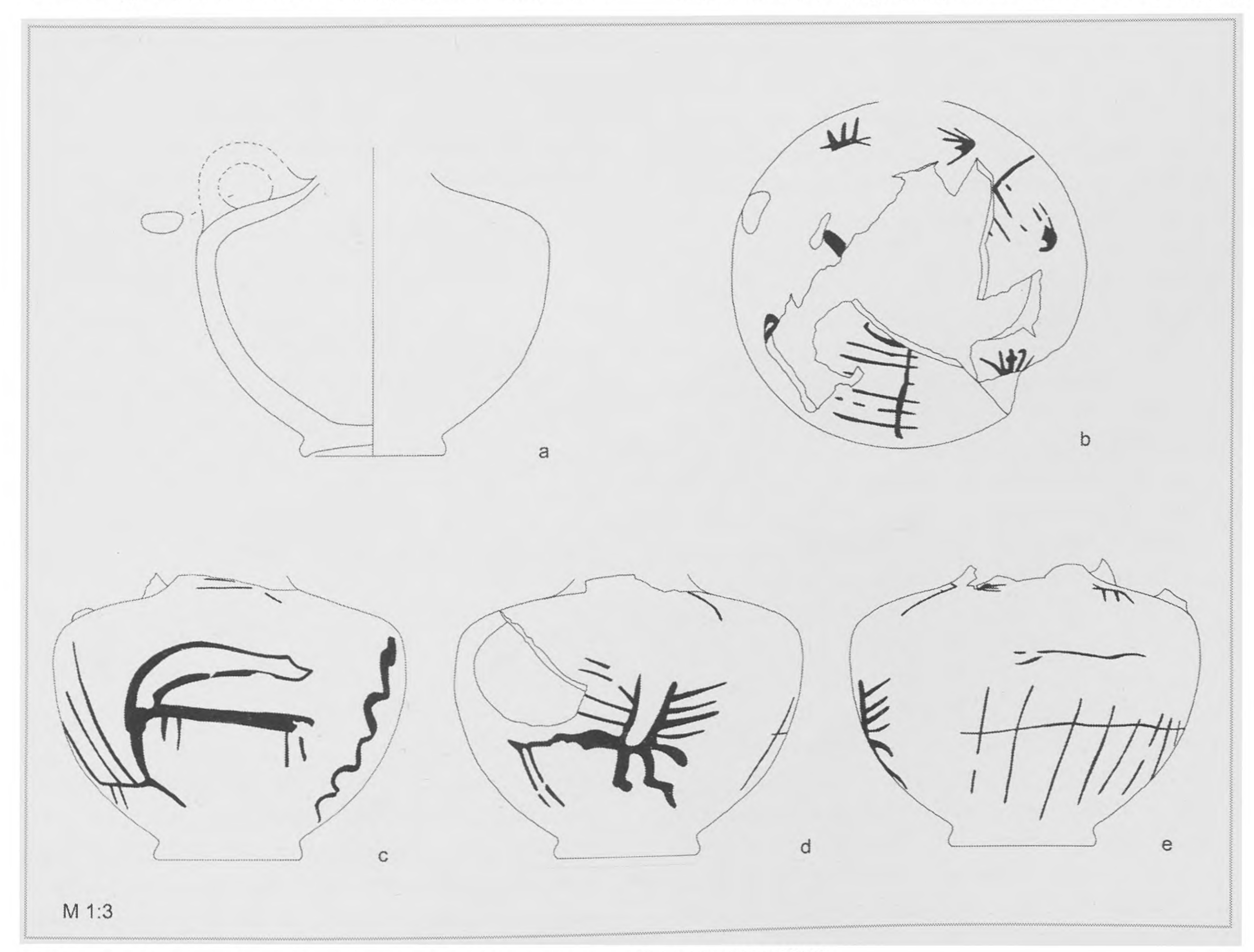
Among the MBA ceramic vessels, we must mention the presence of sherds belonging to a flat baking tray (**Pl. 11b**), and simple rim, small bowls with a rounded carination horizontally burnished on the exterior (**Pl. 10d**) with a high or medium high neck. These types of bowls are datable to the MBA II period. Additionally, flat bases and two burnished button base juglets (**Pl. 6e**) were also exposed. Of great importance is the discovery of a body sherd of the Tell Yahudiyeh ware type (**Pl. 11c**).

4.1.4. The Pottery of the Older Middle Bronze Age Palace, season 2010.

In the southern part of the palace building (see here 1.2.2) were uncovered rims of carinated bowls with internal indentations and S shape bowls with rounded rims, high and short neck carinated bowls with rounded rims and interior indentations, and inverted and simple rim platters radially burnished on the interiors. Painted pottery of the Levantine Painted Ware type is also documented by a juglet body sherd with circular motifs (**Pl. 6b**). The material found in this part of the building can be dated to the MBA II period.

4.2. The Administrative Area (see here item 2.)

The pottery collected in the upper levels of the 2010 and 2011 excavations displays elements that recall the late MBA II period and early LBA I period. In these same layers, during the 2010 season, an interesting and almost complete painted vessel was located. The vessel is a concave ring base juglet with a broken handle which perches on its shoulder (**Pl. 12a, b, c, d and e**). The surface is burnished and painted with dark red figurative motifs located on the central section of the vessel body and on its shoulder (**Pl. 12b, c, d and e**). The identification of the elements reproduced is not exactly clear. It can be suggested that the motifs on the vessel are an actual representation of a scene or an attempt at reproducing an open space. A proposed interpretation is the following: These are two animals, one of which seems to be a horned quadruped (**Pl. 12c**) and the second an unidentified animal with wings or horns (**Pl. 12d**). Alternating the two creatures is an undulated vertical line (**Pl. 12c**) and a series of fine vertical lines with one horizontal fine line running through the vertical lines (**Pl. 12e**). These motifs, placed in such a manner, resemble a fence. On the shoulders of the same juglet (**Pl. 12b**) are visible other motifs that, again, recall four animals. This area of the vessel is broken and the interpretation of two possible series of horizontal lines with one vertical line that runs through them is yet again unclear. Animal motifs were also found on one body sherd belonging to an internally burnished platter (**Pl. 9c**). From the few pieces recovered, it is possible to observe a depiction of an animal executed in dark red paint. Besides the painted vessels with animal motifs, a juglet with bichrome bands occupying



Pl. 12- Figurally painted vessel from the so-called administrative area: I/II-h-18/1 FS39 (2010).

the upper section of the body and with ticks bellow the neck is also attested (**Pl. 7c**). Parallels for this decoration can be found at Ugarit, Ugarit Moyen 2 (Courtois 1978, 209 Fig. 4, n.2). MBA II exemplars from the 2010 excavation include the presence of carinated bowls with a high neck, s-profile bowls, one of which shows an incision on its shoulder, platters interiorly burnished with inverted rounded rims and also an example of a three strand handle (**Pl. 8c**). Lamps, cooking pots with profiled everted rims (**Pl. 2c**) and an everted rim cooking pot with two sided handles at the level of the rim were also unearthed. Profiled rims of pithoi are well attested; the flat bases of the pithoi often show string marks on the sides of the lower section of the base.

In 2011, the excavation reached secure MBA II levels in the deep sounding of the eastern side (see here 2.2.5) and in the western side of the excavation of the trench (see here 2.2.5.1). In the deep sounding (see here 2.2.6.2) MBAI and EBA pottery exemplars were also recovered. The pottery from the administrative area demonstrates some similarities with the ceramic vessels found in the palace. In particular, here were uncovered burnished carinated bowls with simple everted rims and concave bases which were also present in the palace. The variety of the carinated bowls found in the Administrative area is quite large in respect to that of the palace. Additionally, the majority of the bowls are typically burnished on the exterior, vertically on the neck and horizontally on the body. The rims are often simple and rounded with an internal indentation and a ring or disc base.

After the removal of the layers south of W^S12 and W^S13 of Area I-h-18 (see here 2.2.6.1), there were found everted rim jars (**Pl. 2f**), externally profiled rim jars with a tapered edge, with parallels from Shechem (Cole 1984, 165 pl.33 JI 23.e), body sherds with combed decorations often applied to craters and jars and everted rim cooking pots. Body sherds of carinated bowls horizontally burnished on the exterior, simple rounded rims, disc bases, ring bases and one flat base were uncovered. Among the painted ware located during the 2011 season, there was found a bichrome painted cylindrical juglet (**Pl. 7b**) decorated with dark brown bands and red ladder patterns on the body and ticks below the neck. This ceramic vessel assemblage can be dated to the MBA II period.

The pottery exposed in the layers above W^S14 of the Eastern Area (II-h-1) is datable to the MBA II period. Besides the presence of transitional ceramic vessels, such as the Chocolate on White Ware, in this layer we also have clear indicators of MBA age pottery. Among these we can mention the presence of the following types: burnished ring base platters with rounded inverted rims (**Pl. 3b**), burnished bowls with a carination and simple everted rims (**Pl. 13c**), and painted body sherds which present a design that recalls the LPW, with circular motifs (**Pl. 9a**). Among the painted vessels was found a body sherd with an animal motif (**Pl. 9c**).

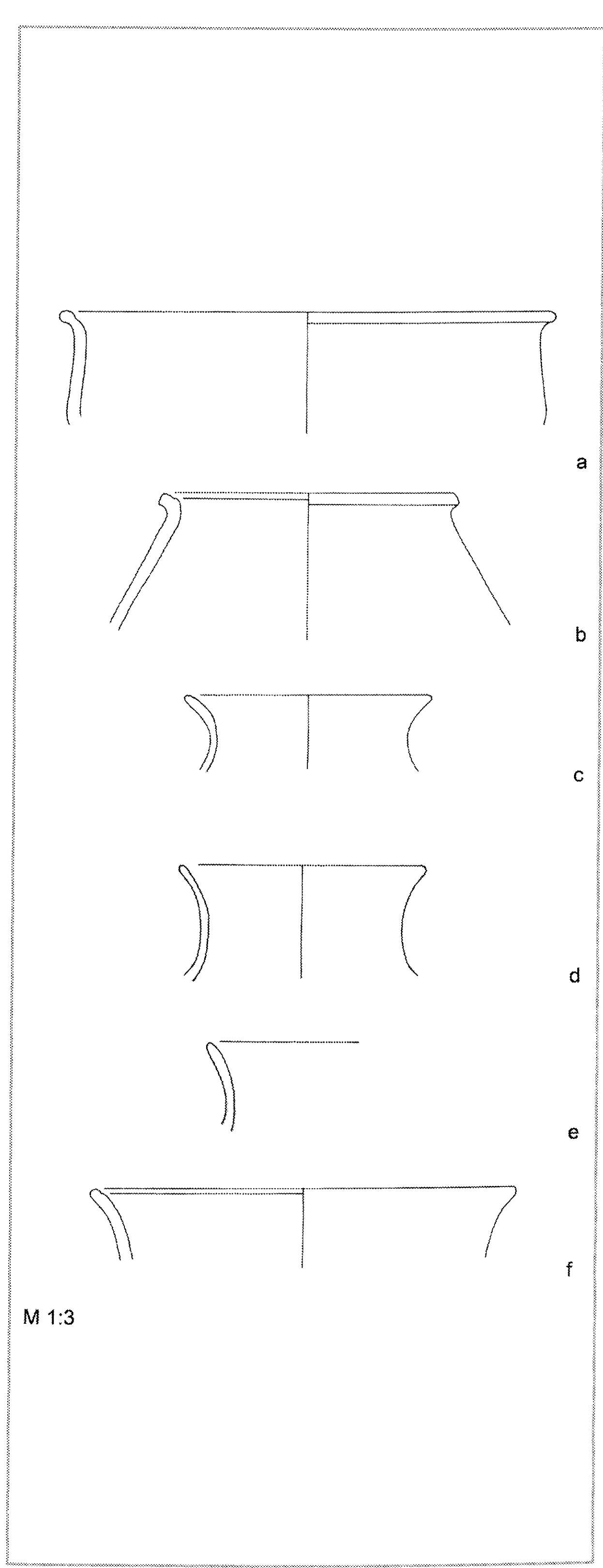
Small jars with everted tapered edge rims (**Pl. 2d**) were also recovered. Comparisons can be found at Shechem (Cole 1984, 179 pl. 40 n. l) and Tell el-Ghassil (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 223 pl.41 n.15). One jug displayed one handle and a flat base (**Pl. 8a**). Body sherds with combed and undulated decoration patterns are present and are often found on medium size jars or craters (**Pl. 4c and d**). A flat baking tray and cooking pots with everted rims are also in evidence.

4.2.1. Pottery elements of MBA II, MBA I and EBA IV in the 2011 deep trench of the Eastern Area (II-h-1).

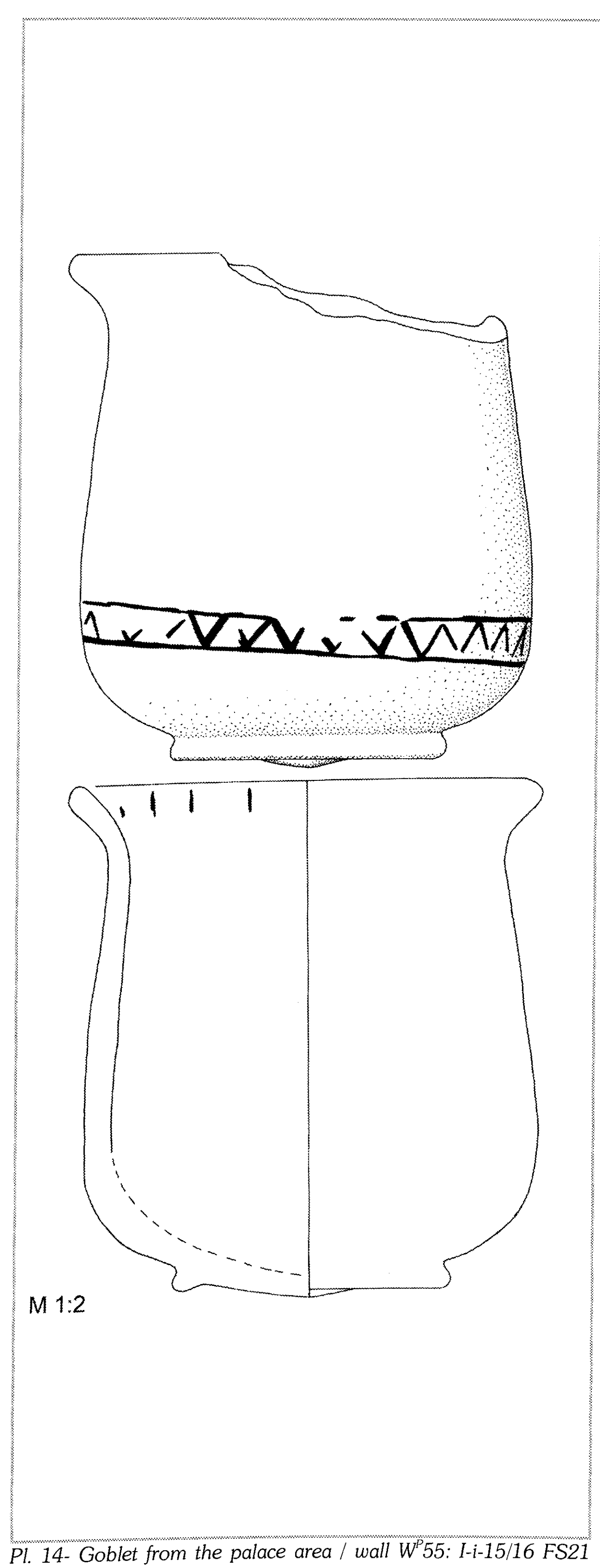
The ceramic vessels uncovered in the deep trench of the administrative area (see here 2.2.5.2) are clearly datable to the MBA II period, with some exemplars datable to the MBA I and one to the EBA III-IV period. Below is a description of the MBA pottery types recognized:

***Bowls* (Pl. 13e and b; Pl. 10c)**

The most common ceramic vessel types recovered in the grey-brown earth with ash layers above the stone setting are the burnished carinated bowls. Most of these bowls are medium ware with some fine ware examples. These bowls show a round carination at the level of the body, a tall neck (**Pl. 10c**) or medium high neck and a simple rounded rim (**Pl. 13e**) or a rim with an internal indentation (**Pl. 13f**). These have a ring base and a disc base. Ridges below the neck are frequently common in the Kamid el-Loz carinated bowls.



Pl. 13- Carinated bowl from the deep trench: I-h- 18/1 FS 23 /no. (2011).



Pl. 14- Goblet from the palace area / wall W^{P}55: I-i-15/16 FS21 (2011).

Parallels for the carinated bowls can be found at Tell Ghassil niveau X (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 194 pl 12) Yabroud (Braemer -Maqdisī 2002, 44 n.55) and Shechem (Cole 1984, 129 pl 14; 131 pl 15a).
Other types of bowls include a closed bowl **(Pl. 13b)**, a handled bowl, and a small bowl with a three strand handle.

Platters (Pl. 3g)

Platters have rounded inverted rims (**Pl. 3g**), are burnished interiorly and have a ring or disc base. Comparisons can be found at Shechem (Cole 1984, 109 pl 5 Bp 61).

Juglets (Pl. 8b)

Juglets are mainly indicated by the presence of double strand handles (**Pl. 8b**), trefoil rims, as well as by button bases.

***Painted Ware* (Pl. 6c; Pl. 9b)**

Painted pottery is characterized by the occurrence of bands and geometric motifs applied on body sherds which recall the LPW style (**Pl. 6c and Pl. 9b**). Parallels for the painted ware with circular motifs datable to the MBAII period can be found in the Beqa'a at Tell Ghassil niveau X/MBAIIB (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 197 pl. 15). In the coastal area, painted ware is attested at Sidon (Bagh 2004, 40-57), in the southern Levant at Tell Dan (Ilan 1996a, 164 Fig. 7 n. 9)and in Southern Syria (Braemer - Maqdisī 2002, 49 pl. XIXb).

***Jars* (Pl. 4d)**

Combed decorations on body sherds are frequent. Often, the undulated pattern combined with the combed band decoration (**Pl. 4d**) can be seen on craters or on medium–large size jars. Jars and storage jars are well documented by the presence of profiled everted rims and tall necks. Jars uncovered in this area show a flat base and are generally of medium size and a few examples indicate that there were also large size jars.

Cooking ware (Pl. 1a and b; Pl. 11a)

Among the cooking ware, we must mention the presence of an upright wall cooking pot decorated with vestigial holes above rope molding (**Pl. 11a**). Parallels for this type of cooking pot can be found in MBA II levels at Shechem (Cole 1984, 145 pl. 23 Fig. a,b). This type of cooking bowl is also very well attested in the MBA I level at Megiddo XIII (Amiran 1970, 101 pl.30 n.1). Other types of cooking pots include the everted rim pot (**Pl. 1a**) and the profiled rim pot with external projection (**Pl. 1b**).

A flat baking tray was also found. Parallels for this type of vessel is available at Tell Arqa Phase M/MBA II (Thalmann 2006, Pl. 105 n.8, 11).

4.2.2. Pottery from the "stone setting" in the deep trench of the Eastern Area, north-east of W^S14 (see here 2.2.5.2).

MBA II ceramic vessel exemplars continue to be in evidence, in particular, burnished bowls with rounded carination, simple everted rims, indented rims (**Pl. 10h**) and tall necks with disc concave bases and ring concave bases, and platters burnished on the exterior and interior with a concave ring base and a simple rim. Combed decorations on body sherds and double strand handles have also been uncovered. Along with the painted vessels, we need to point out the presence of body sherds of juglets with bichrome bands on the body and ticks on the shoulders.

Two vessels were discovered between the stones that composed the stone installation: a complete bowl with a slightly concave disc base with rounded carinated walls, exteriorly burnished, with a high neck and rounded everted rim (**Pl. 10e**), and a broken burnished platter with concave profile ring base. Both were placed upside down but the carinated bowl was found in a small opening, suggesting that it was meant to contain the pot. Parallels for the carinated bowl can be found at Tell Arqa phase M/MBA II (Thalmann 2006, pl 99 n.1-6; pl 98) in southern Syria MBA II (Braemer - Maqdisī 2002, 44-45), Tell el Ghassil niveau X (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 194 pl 12) as well as in Shechem (Cole 1984, 129 pl 14; 131 pl 15a).

4.2.3. Pottery from the eastern side of the "stone setting" in the deep sounding of the Eastern Area, MBA II and MBA I pottery (see here 2.2.5.2).

MBA II and MBA I pottery are verified in this layer. Carinated bowls, exteriorly burnished with a

rounded carination and simple rim (**Pl. 13d**), as well as a burnished bowl with one side-handle and a flat base are attested. Other bowl types include bowls with a slight, sharp carination (**Pl. 13a**) and two globular bowls. Platters show rounded inverted rims (**Pl. 3d**) or undercut rims. Disc bases and flat bases are predominant in this level and some examples are burnished. Painted body sherds with series of bands on the body and ticks at the level of the shoulder were found. Also, everted profiled rim jars (**Pl. 1d**) and body sherds with combed decoration patterns continue to be present in this level **(Pl. 4a and c**).

MBA I pottery is mainly represented by triangularly sectioned, thickened, everted rim jars (**Pl. 1c**) with parallels available in the southern Levant (Cohen 2002, 58 Fig. 3b n 1-3), externally rounded, thickened rim jars and concave, inner profiled rim jars with comparisons from Apekh MBA IIA/MBA I (Beck 1985, Fig. 2 n. 16), holemouth and gutter rim cooking pots with parallels from Aphek MBA IIA/MBA I (Kochavi – Yadin 2002, 222 Fig. 31), body sherds of possible sharply carinated bowls and guttered rims of small bowls with similar exemplars at Tell Arqa phase N/ MBA I (Thalmann 2006, pl. 82-3).

One sherd exhibiting a combed surface has been unearthed in the western enlargement of the deep sounding; such a decoration is typical of the Early Bronze Age. Further studies of other sherds of this level are in process.

4.3. The MBA pottery of the burial pit, located in the Residential Area west of the Temple

The pit (see here, item 3.) contained one grave good, a small jug with handle (grave G^{t}1-3), painted with a red, horizontally striped pattern, excavated during our exploration here in 2007[43]. Our excavations in this area were resumed in 2011, when the above elucidated burial pit was excavated entirely and more MBA ceramic vessels were recovered. Of great relevance was the finding in the pit of two fine ware sherds belonging to two button base juglets, one of which showed a circular design (**Pl. 6d**), often common in the so-called Levantine Painted Ware. The second button base was unpainted. Other MBA sherds include a globular bowl with simple everted rim with parallels from Shechem (Cole 1984, 125 pl.13 BgB 1), two medium ware body sherds with combed and undulated decorations (**Pl. 4b**), a flat base of a jar and two everted rim jars, and a flat baking tray.

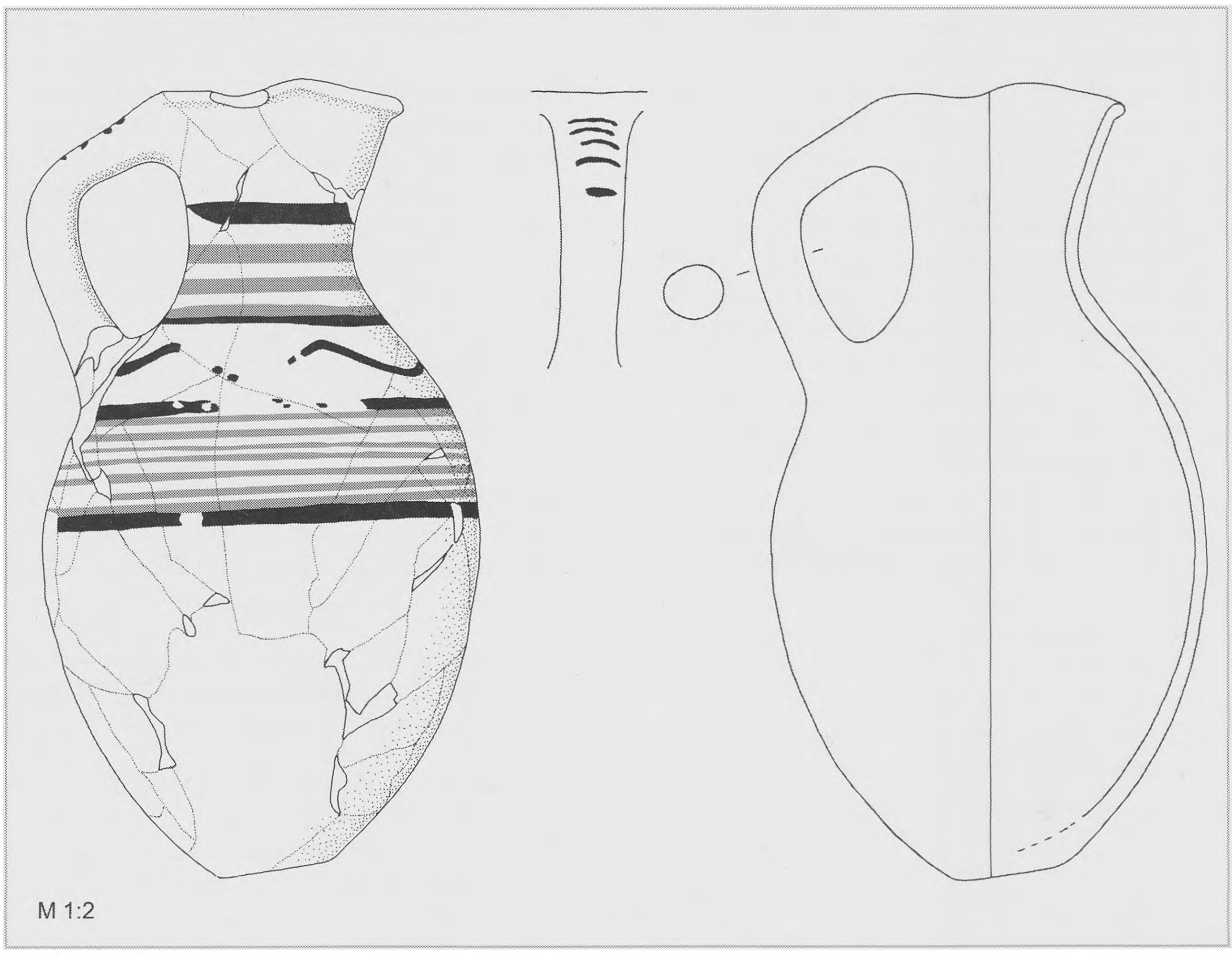
Two grave goods, a complete fine ware composed of small juglets with one handle and a flat base were recovered with the individuals composing grave G^{t}3 of the burial pit. One painted juglet GF^{t}3 (**Pl. 15**) shows bichrome horizontal and undulated bands and a trefoil rim. The second vessel GF^{t}2 (**Pl. 8n and e**) is an unpainted juglet with a simple rim. The two vessels found with the deceased in grave G^{t}3 are not comparable with the forms found in the contemporaneous palace and administrative area. The painted juglet, to date, does not have an exact parallel with other areas of the Levant. The motifs visible on the surface of the juglet are present in different compositions on painted vessels of the so-called Levantine Painted Ware type.

Comparison table between the ceramic vessels from Kamid el-Loz and the ceramic vessels from some neighboring Levantine sites

The table available on page 81 provides some comparisons between the Kamid el-Loz pottery uncovered during the 2010-2011 excavation seasons and the pottery from the surrounding regions of Kamid el-Loz.

Row I exemplifies the most typical MBA II carinated bowls of Kamid el-Loz (n. I.1-3), with a rounded carination, tall and short necks, simple and indented rims, and often with ring bases or disc bases. These can be compared with the carinated bowls that are commonly found in Lebanon at sites such as Tell Hizzin (n. I. 4-5) in the Beqa'a Valley datable to the earlier half of the MBA or the transition from the MBA IIA to IIB, and Tell Arqa (n. I.6-7) in Northern Lebanon datable to MBA II period. Other comparisons can be found in southern Syria at the site of Yabroud (n. I. 8-9), in western Syria at the site of Alalakh (n. I. 10) and in the southern Levant at the site of Shechem (n. I. 11-12), just to mention a few sites.

Row II exemplifies a new painted ware recently found at Kamid el-Loz (n. II. 1-2), two broken juglets characterized by a colarette below the neck and a series of horizontal bands on the body. These patterns can also be found at Kharji T.2 in Beyruth (n. II. 3) and

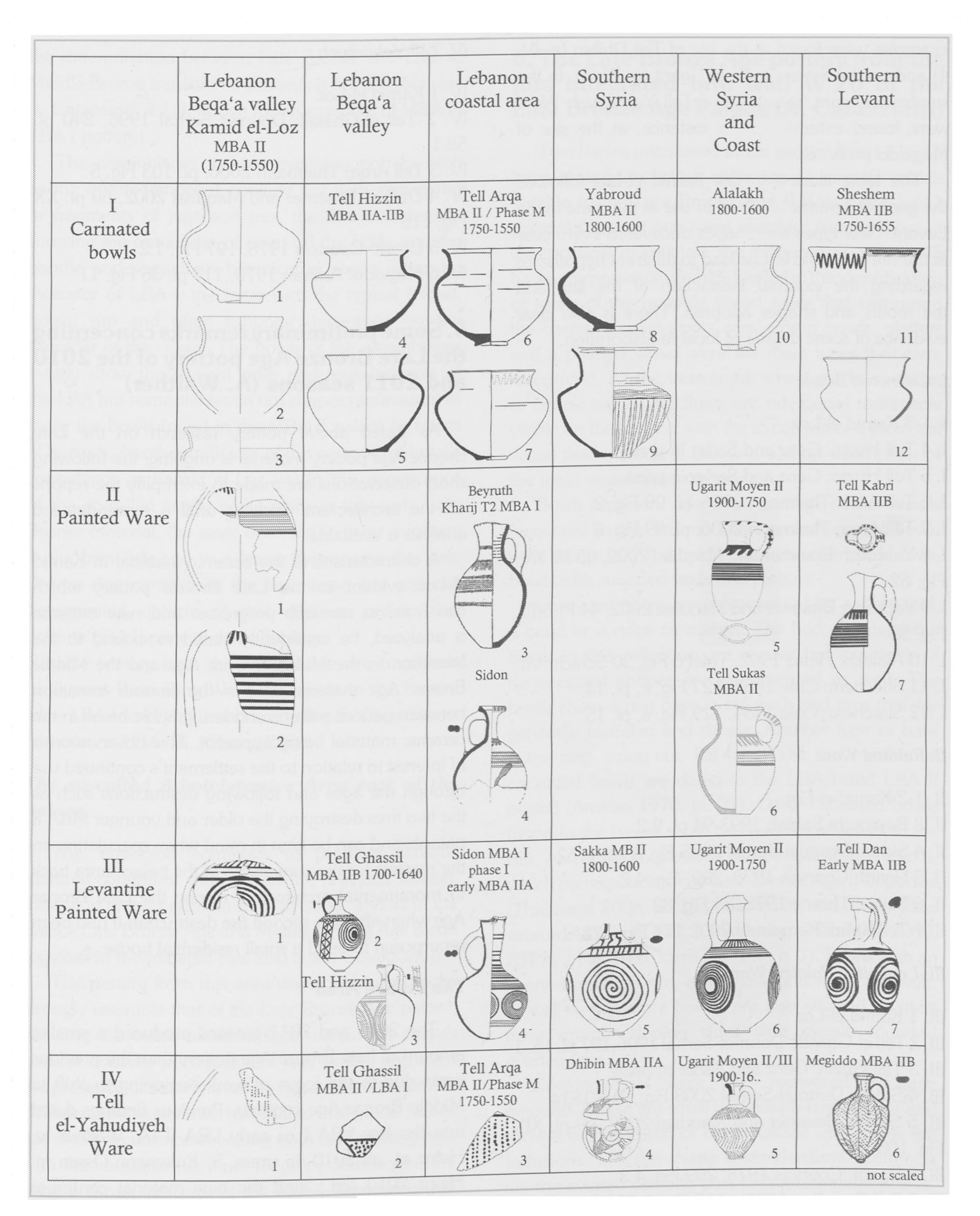


Pl. 15- GF3.

at Sidon (n. II. 4) and are dated to the MBA I period, while other examples found in coastal Syria at the site of Ugarit (n. II. 5) and Sukas (n. II. 6) are datable to a slightly later period. Further examples can be found in the southern Levant at the site of Tell Kabri (n. II.7) and are datable to the MBA II period, between 1700-1600 BCE.

Row III represents the so-called Levantine Painted Ware (LPW), which can be found in great quantity at Kamid el-Loz. This example from the 2010 excavation season shows the typical spiral motif of the LPW (n. III. 1). Close parallels can be found in Lebanon at the site of Sidon (n. III. 4) datable to the MBA I period. To the MBA I/MBA II period is dated the LPW at Ugarit (n. III. 6) on the Syrian coast. Attributed to the MBA II period are the LPW from the Beqa'a Valley, deriving from the sites of Tell el-Ghassil (n. III. 2) and Tell Hizzin (n. III. 3), from Sakka (n. III. 5) in southern Syria and Tell Dan (n. III. 7) in the southern Levant. The LPW is often considered to be a mark of the MBA I period but at Kamid el-Loz this ware should be dated to the MBA II period, at least between 1800-1600 BCE.

Row IV shows a fragment of a Tell Yahudiyeh Ware sherd (n. IV. 1). This is a typical MBA II period ware that was in circulation in the entire Levant. Here are added only a few examples from the coast of Lebanon (Tell Arqa, n. IV. 3), from the Beqa'a Valley (Tell el-Ghassil, n. IV. 2) and from southern Syria where some



Tab. 1- Comparative chart of MBA pottery from Kamid el-Loz with the surrounding regions.

examples were found at the site of Tell Dhibin (n. IV. 4) and on the Syrian coast at Ugarit (n. IV. 5). In the southern Levant, examples of Tell Yahudiyeh Ware were found extensi[illegible]r instance, at the site of Megiddo (n. IV. 6).

The table illustr[illegible]ow Kamid el-Loz followed the general ceramic [illegible]ition in use at that time in the Levant. New types an[illegible]hapes uncovered every year at the site of Kamid el-Loz lead to different hypotheses regarding the external interaction of the site and the motifs and shapes adopted. There is also clear evidence of some degree of local re-elaboration.

I. Carinated Bowls

I. 1-3 Kamid el-Loz
I. 4 Tell Hizzin: Genz and Sader in press
I. 5 Tell Hizzin: Genz and Sader in press
I. 6 Tell Arqa: Thalmann 2006, pl. 99 Fig. 2
I. 7 Tell Arqa: Thalmann 2006, pl. 99 Fig. 6
I. 8 Yabroud: Braemer and Maqdissi 2002, 45 Pl. XV, Fig. 62
I. 9 Yabroud: Braemer and Maqdissi 2002, 44 Pl. XIV, Fig. 55
I. 10 Alalakh: Heinz 1992, Tafel 6 Fig. 30 Schicht VII
I. 11 Shechem: Cole 1984, 127 Fig. h, pl. 14
I. 12 Shechem: Cole 1984, 129 Fig. a, pl. 15

II. Painted Ware

II. 1-2 Kamid el-Loz
II. 3 Beyrouth: Saidah 1993-94 pl. 9.2
II. 4 Sidon: Doumet-Serhal 2008 Fig. 19 S/1762
II. 5 Ugarit: Courtois 1978, 209, Fig. 4.2
II. 6 Sukas: Thrane 1978, 34 Fig. 82
II. 7 Tell Kabri: Kempinski 2002,124 Fig 5.22:6

III. Levantine Painted Ware

III. 1 Kamid el-Loz
III. 2 Tell el-Ghassil: Doumet-Serhal 1996,197 pl. 15. 1
III. 3 Tell Hizzin: Genz and Sader in press
III. 4 Sidon: Doumet-Serhal 2008 Fig. 19 S/1814
III. 5 Sakka: Braemer and Maqdissi 2002, 49 pl. XIX Fig. 108
III. 6 Ugarit: Courtois 1978, 209 Fig. 4.3
III. 7 Tell Dan: Ilan 1996b, 198 Fig. 4.52 m

IV. Tell Yahudiyeh

IV. 1 Kamid el-Loz
IV. 2 Tell el-Ghassil: Doumet Serhal 1996, 240 pl. 58.1
IV. 3 Tell Arqa: Thalmann 2006, pl. 103 Fig. 5
IV. 4 Dhibin: Braemer and Maqdissi 2002, 50 pl. XX Fig. 116
IV. 5 Ugarit: Courtois 1978, 197 Fig. 1.2
IV. 6 Megiddo: Amiran 1970, 117 pl. 36 Fig. 11

5. Some preliminary remarks concerning the Late Bronze Age pottery of the 2010 and 2011 seasons (A. Walther)

As stated above pottery research on the Late Bronze Age pottery material is ongoing; the following short observations are made to exemplify the reports on the architectural findings until a more detailed analysis is available.

A characteristic of the ceramic material in Kamid el-Loz evident in the Late Bronze pottery which can now, as research progresses and new material is analyzed, be confidently stated to extend to the transition to the Middle Bronze Age and the Middle Bronze Age material itself is the smooth transition between periods with no sudden, graphic break in the ceramic material being apparent. This observation is of interest in relation to the settlement's continued use through the ages and following destructions such as the two fires destroying the older and younger MBA II palaces and can be kept in mind when speculating on the reasons for the conversion of the palace area back to monumental architecture during the Late Bronze Age when after the second fire destruction it had been repurposed to build a small residential house.

The Palace Area

The 2010 and 2011 seasons produced a smaller amount of Late Bronze Age pottery than the previous years due to the focus of work beginning to shift to Middle Bronze Age contexts. Previous findings dated into the late LBA I or early LBA II (A. Walther in: Heinz et. al. 2010 /in press; S. Kulemann-Ossen in: Heinz 2010 (ed.), and the new material continues to be congruent with those findings, though in parts

the differentiation between Late Bronze and Late to Middle Bronze transitional contexts is not possible (see A. Catanzariti 4.1.3. above for an example of MBA II/ LBA I pottery).

The assemblages include everyday pottery such as the quartz-tempered cooking pot with flaring rim or fragments of jugs and jars, the first occasionally showing the remainder of paint on the body and the handle and sometimes biconical in shape, often an indicator of LBA I, the latter with the typical folded, ridged rim and often fishbone decoration on the shoulder of the vessel. The bowls of the assemblages mostly show the straight sides and rounded rims of the LBA but some still retain rim shapes reminiscent of those flat bowls found in the MBA II palace or traces of burnish. Another indicator of the ceramic material's consistency at Kamid el-Loz lies in the appearance of the so-called sandy white ware in this early Late Bronze material; the ware occurred in great numbers in the Iron Age and to a lesser degree also the Late Bronze Age contexts of the east slope, but was not documented outside of that area or earlier than definite LBA II prior to these findings.

Notable pottery from this context are two fragments of Cypriot Base Ring Ware II, present in the Levant from LBA I to LBA IIB and according to Charaf most common in LBA IIA. (Charaf 2008).

The so-called Administrative Area east of the palace

This area too continues to produce ceramic material congruent with that of the previous season, though at greater number than in 2009, and as in the palace Late Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age blend together in the material (see also again Catanzariti).

The pottery from this area does, not surprisingly, strongly resemble that of the Late Bronze Age palace, showing the same commonplace wares and shapes such as cooking pots, jugs and jars, bowls, and even the presence of the white sandy ware. The one notable difference in the ceramic material to that of the palace lies in the occurrence of baking trays and cooking pots with the characteristic inner ledge or double rim, the latter a strong indicator of the LBA I, suggesting that food preparation took place in the area.

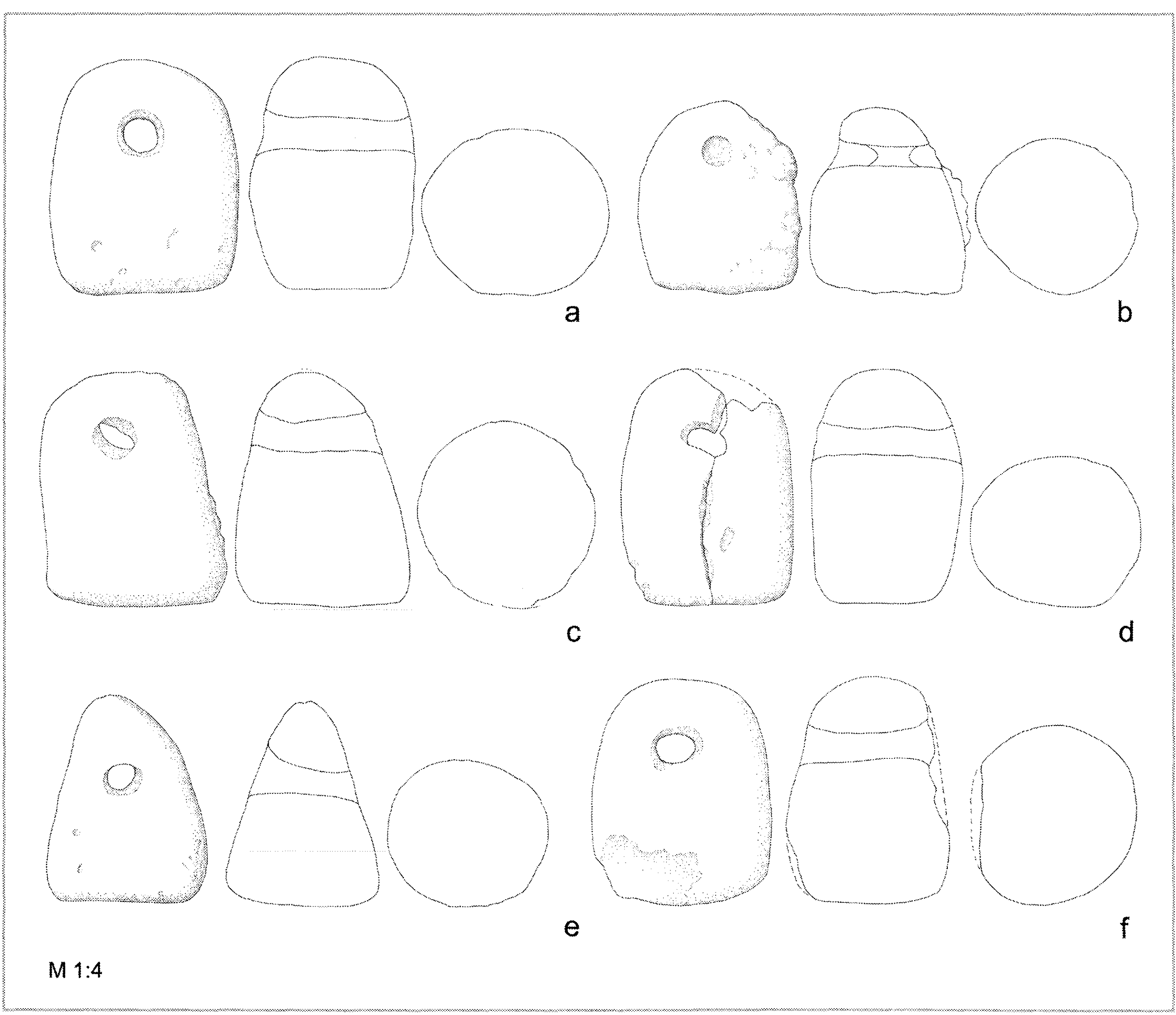
6. The Late Bronze Age pottery from the pits integrated into wall W^{P}20 of the Late Bronze Age Palace (A. Catanzariti)

Two basins uncovered in the palace area I-i-14/15 have brought to light a collection of ceramic vessels datable to the Late Bronze Age (LBA). Circa 1,611 sherds of broken pots were counted. Among these, it was possible to estimate the existence of at least 45 bases, the presence of which has led to the identification of some of the possible vessel types that composed the basins. Cooking pots, jars, closed bowls, platters and a painted vessel were the main types that were recognized. All the vessels are wheel made, medium to coarse ware, and there are no special treatments visible on the surface, with the exception of a biconical vessel that is painted. Below is a short description of the main vessel types uncovered.

Bowls represent a large percentage of the vessels recovered in the basins. Three main types of bowls were recognized in the collection: the carinated bowls, bowls with rounded walls and platters.

Carinated bowls are characterized by a slight fold, a bend or a ridge carination. The body forms of the bowls in this collection are regular but examples of degenerated shapes are documented as well. The bowls show a ring base, a tall neck and rims that are generally rounded and simple. Another type of base is the ring, string cut, flat base. The just mentioned carinated bowls are dated to the LBA I and LBA II period (Amiran 1970, pl. 39). Other carinated bowls found in the basins show two handles attached to the rim. At Tell Arqa, parallels can be found in phase K, which corresponds to the Late Bronze Age II-III period (Thalmann 2006, pl. 188 nos. 5-10), and at Megiddo stratum VIII area DD (Finkelstein – Zimhoni 2000, 231 n. 7 Fig. 10.6; idem Fig. 10.5 n. 1). Bowls with an everted rounded rim, a flat base and rounded walls, as well as miniature bowls, are also attested. Platters have straight sloping sides with simple rounded everted rims.

Cooking pots were also recovered in large amounts. These are small to medium-large in size and show a brownish-red or black surface with visible grit inclusions. The rim shape is standardized. Common are the everted cooking pots with a triangular profile. At Megiddo, this type of cooking pot is found in level



Pl. 16- The loom weights Fnr. 370-375 (a: 371; b: 374, c: 373; d: 372: e: 375; f: 370).

F-9 of the early LBA II period (Ilan *et al.* 2000, 212 Fig. 9.11 nos 9-19). Other parallels from the LBA I are available in the southern Levant at Beth Shemesh and Hazor (Amiran 1970, pl. 42 n.2, n.10). In Lebanon, parallels for the everted rim cooking pots can be found at Tell Arqa phase L of the LBA I period (Thalmann 2006, pl.112 n.8), and also at the site of Kamid el-Loz in the LBA II period (Metzger 1993, tf. 112, nos. 14, 16). Other cooking pots show a profiled everted rim, which has been already recorded at Kamid el-Loz in the LBA I period (Metzger 1993, tf. 112, n. 12). In the southern Levant this type of rim is also attested, for example, at Megiddo stratum VIII, datable to the LBA II (Amiran 1970, pl. 42 n.17). Another type in evidence at Kamid el-Loz is a one-handled cooking pot. The bases found which can be assigned to cooking pots are generally rounded or flat.

One pithos base and various medium-size jars with side handles were recognized. The most common type of decoration is the combed pattern and rope-like decoration on body sherds often present on pithoi.
Only one painted vessel was found in the inventory, a

monochrome painted biconical vessel with a rounded everted rim. The decoration is composed of red-brown bands on the older section of the body and triangle motifs on the neck of the vessel.

As mentioned earlier, circa 45 bases were counted. Besides the presence of ring bases and round bases, the majority were flat bases of which 7 were string cut. Of particular interest are two bases. One is a ring base with several perforations at the base. The second is a rounded base with one perforation. Other bases uncovered are the concave bases, the disc bases, a flat base decorated with incised strokes on its border and a knobbed base that is often present in jars for transportation.

7. Some preliminary remarks concerning the small finds of the 2010 and 2011 seasons (Pls 16 to 24, Figs 27 to 29)

7.1. Selected findings from the palace area (E. Wagner-Durand)

Textile industry

Six loom weights (Fnr. 370-375) were uncovered in the southern palace area (**Pl. 16**). Except for one, all those loom weights stem from the same layer of mud-brick-rubble. This layer is attributed to a floor level only observable in the southern section of the area excavated in III-b-15-/16 to which mud-brick wall W^P44 belongs, also only being visible in this southern section (**Fig. 29**). These structures might once have been connected to the level of the MBA intermediate building on top of the younger MBA palace.

Already in 2009 at least six loom weights of the same kind have been uncovered in the south of the palace area, their distribution being much wider and more irregular than that of the newly discovered weights[44]. Although these weights cannot exclusively be attributed to the same MBA II destruction level, is seems very likely that they should be attributed to this intermediate MBA II-level.

Yasur-Landau has put forwards that loom weights of this form and material can be understood as typical for the Middle Bronze Age in the Levant (Megiddo, Hazor Lachish, Tell Batash), disappearing in the Late Bronze Age because of a new established weaving loom type, possibly introduced from Egypt (Yasur-Landau 2007). It almost goes without saying that the use of the "old type" might of course have stretched into the beginning of the LBA period.
All together, the loom weights from Kamid el-Loz stress the functional change of the palace area during the 'intermediate building period': from a palace to a more common residential or at least to a more 'industrial' used area.

Bone intarsia

Two bone inlays were found, both most likely to be dated into the MBA II or the LBA (I) period.

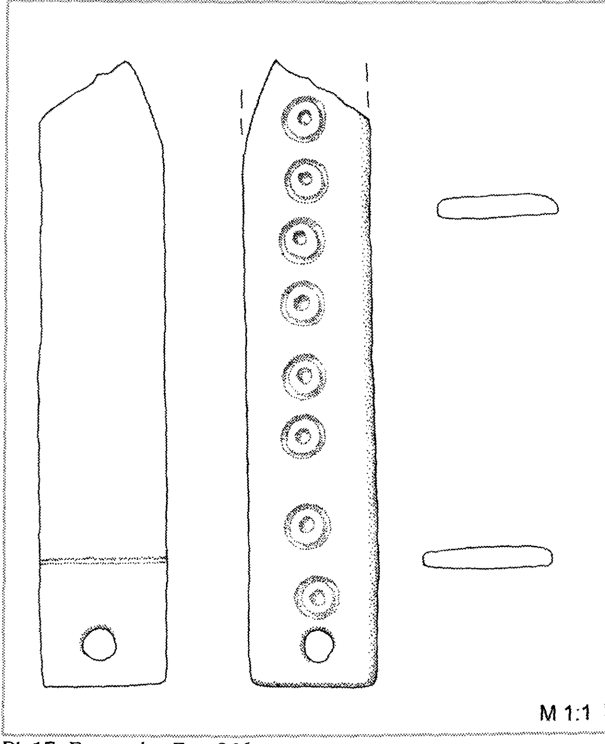
Fnr. 366 was found in 2010 in the context of a pottery covered floor in room 7, destroyed and sealed by a destruction layer (**Pl. 17**). The object in question is a typical flat bone inlay with circular-dot decoration as it has been found all over the Levant during the Middle and Late Bronze Age. Correspondingly, a piece with similar but not identical pattern has already been found in the palace area in 2007. (Linke – Wagner 2010a, Fnr. 146, Pl. 33, Fig. 122). Other examples with circle-dot decoration but also with separating diagonal zigzag-like lines have once been found in the so-called treasury (germ. Schatzhaus) (Miron 1990, 558-560, Taf. 51). All these comparisons, similar but still different to Fnr. 366, are to be attributed to the Late Bronze Age. However, the stratigraphic attribution of the 2010 bone inlay clearly hints to a dating into the MBA II. Comparisons for the circle-dot-style outside of Kamid el-Loz are abundant, so just a few relevant ones should be named. A convenient comparison from Sidon, grave 100, supports a dating of the piece into the MBA II[45]. The grave in question contained several panels of an antler bone made box, partly showing the identical decoration pattern to the piece of Kamid (Doumet-Serhal 2009, 40: Fig. 44). Therefore it is imaginable that the inlay from the burnt flooring once belonged to a similar box. Another comparison from Ugarit (No. 371: Gachet-Bizollon 2007, 298, 298, 456: Planche 106: Nr. 371.) also verifies the dating into the MBA II period[46]. To conclude, the pieces (found in Kamid 2007 and 2011) show that bone inlays of this type were already known during the MBA II period in the city of Kamid el-Loz,



Fig. 27- The southern section in the south of the palace area.

and that its decorative style developed there gradually from the MBA to the LBA.

The second bone inlay (Fnr. 382) was found in the northwestern part of the Late Bronze Age palace and shows a quite rarer motive: a human (female) head (**Pl. 18**). The chronological attribution of this fragment is rather LBA than MBA, a dating certainly supported by the archaeological context. From the Late Bronze Age treasury (germ. Schatzhaus) several ivory human faces are known (Miron 1990, Nr. 502-504, Abb. 25-27; Abb. 58, Taf. 38,1-3; for such pieces see also Loud 1939, Pl. 44), but seize as well as the general object type differ: those objects from the treasury are considerably larger and they only comprise the face, in one case also the neck[47]. Although not the same type of object and much larger than Fnr. 382, an Ugaritian female (?) head made of ivory shows a very similar nose and mouth but no eyes or other facial features (blind?) (Loud 1939, 303, 461: Planche 111: no. 404, (**Pls 1 to 15, Fig. 26 and Tab. 1**). Similarly the face of the lyre-player from the treasury of Kumidi resembles the face of the intarsia, although the lips differ (KL 78: 504; Miron 1990, 108-110, Abb. 24, Taf. 37,2, Nr. 501). Though in this case the proportions accord to the palace finding of 2011. However, at the moment being, no convincing comparison can be found – neither functionally nor stylistically, but the examination of the small finds is still in progress and therefore preliminary. Most probably the intarsia once belonged to a box, or less likely, to a piece of furniture.



Pl. 17- Bone inlay Fnr. 366.

A smiting god statuette (Pl. 19)

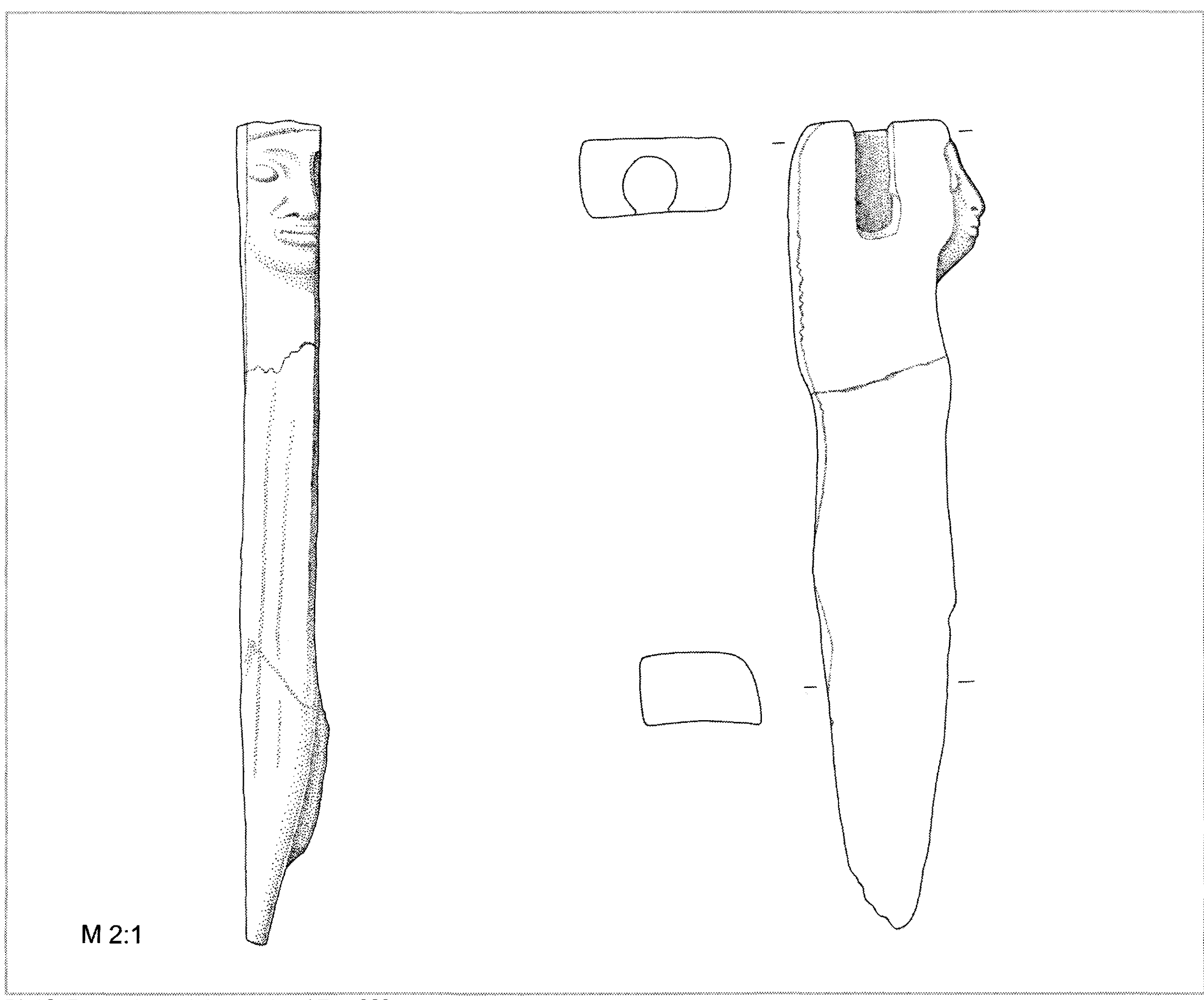
A bronze figurine of a male figure / god (?) (Fnr. 385), probably a storm god (often named as Baal)[48] was found in the area of the structures north of wall W^P40, close to the round-structure (W^P49). Similar statuettes are already known from the LBA temple of Kumidi (KL 70:507, KL 70:508, KL 69:234, KL 68:500, KL 70:847 Metzger 1993, Nr. 460, 475, 714, 748, 1114, Taf. 18, 19, 22)[49] and, generally, statuettes of (armed) figurines in menacing/smiting poses are quite common in the Late Bronze Levant[50]. In contrast to many, but by far not all statuettes of menacing figures, Fnr. 385 does not show the typical short skirt (maybe because of the heavy corrosion), but a belt line is visible, the skirt therefore to be reconstructed. Also unlike many statuettes the newly found example of Kamid el-Loz probably doesn't wear the Egyptian hedjet crown. In contrast, at least three (if not more) statuettes, once found in the temple area of Kumidi, (KL 70: 507-508, KL 68:500) wear a conical head dress respectively the distinct hedjet; only one female statuette wears the atef crown (KL 70: 847 Metzger 1993, Nr. 1114, Taf. 22/2). Another sitting figure (KL 69:233, Metzger 1993, Nr. 713, Pl.19/2) shows a conical headdress neither being the atef nor the hedjet crown. Probably, the new statuette should be seen in the light of this last mentioned figure. Since the statuette has not yet been restored and the crown part is broken, the identification of the headdress must remain preliminary, also considering that the atef crown worn by male individuals is unusual amongst the standing armed figurines the Levant[51].

From the point of simplicity the new piece resembles some of the male menacing figures found in Kumidi, which vary considerably in their execution. Following Seeden's view on the group XI, to which the statuette must be attributed, the new exemplar from Kamid el-Loz must belong to what she calls the Late Urban period, most likely not to its very beginning (unlike the female statuette), but probably into the late LB I and the LB IIA/B period[52]. An earlier phase of the Late Bronze Age is most probable out of stratigraphical reasons.

Context and usage: Supposing the figure shows a god, not a human being, the context indicates two possibilities: either the statuette was part of a more private, probably royal cult, and therefore belonged to the palace or it was simply lost in that area during the troubles of a violent incident (see below: weapons), ordinarily stemming from the cultic area, situated north of the palace. However, the statuette has not been discovered in its primary context since it has been found in the "destruction" rubble of the wall corner W^P50/W^P54, so any assumptions concerning its primary function must remain tentative.

Addendum: a bronze 'symbol' (Pl. 20c)

The bronze object Fnr. 389 (**Pl. 20c**) forms a 'symbol' that might once have belonged to a storm/ weather god figure: From the bronze post two "lightning-beams"/flames branch off; the branches each form a bow and then meet again, one lightning beam being slightly longer than the other. However, traditionally the lightning symbol of weather gods in the wider area of Syria shows three flames or branches. (For example seals No. A 25, A 37, A 31: Beyer 2001-, 63, 71, 67, or seals No. 730, 734: Porada



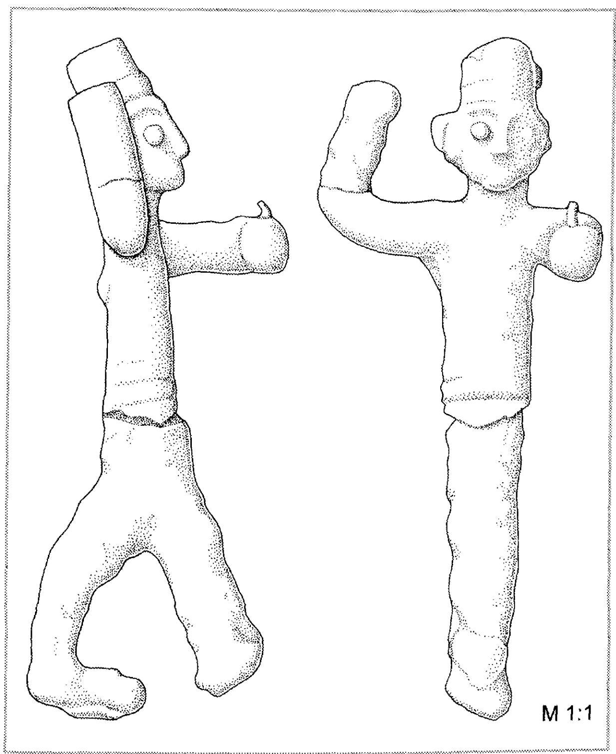
Pl. 18- Bone inlay with human head Fnr. 382.

1947, pl.XXXVII). A different, but also applicable interpretation would be that the objects once belonged to the lower end of a so-called Egyptian WAS-sceptre, at which the branches were bent slightly too narrow touching each other – either made on purpose or caused by the destruction of the object and by the pressure of the surrounding soil.

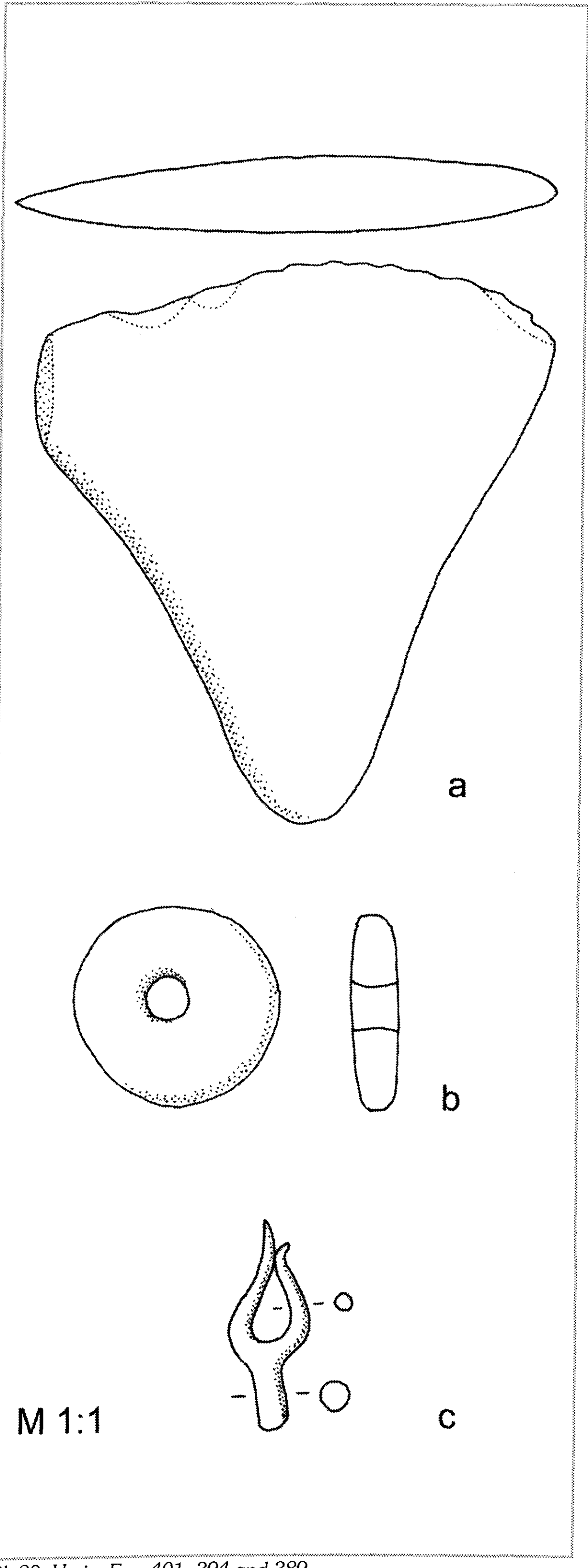
The WAS-sceptre represented a sign of power of the Egyptian pharaohs which is also observable in the hands of the only secure LBA Baal imagery known (because of the written evidence): namely the stela dedicated to Mami from Ugarit. (Yon 1991). Thus, this attribute of power can either belong to a god or a king. Except that the piece in question seems slightly too large, it might have once belonged to the male figure described above. As stated above, the symbol denoted a powerful person, either a god or king: Both interpretations are applicable to the statuette Fnr. 385.

Weapons (Pl. 21)

The area of the round structure (W^P49 etc.) revealed several findings of arrows and spear heads. (Fnr. 386, 390, 391, 392; the distinction of arrows and spear heads being preliminary): At least two



Pl. 19- The smiting god (?) statuette Fnr. 385.



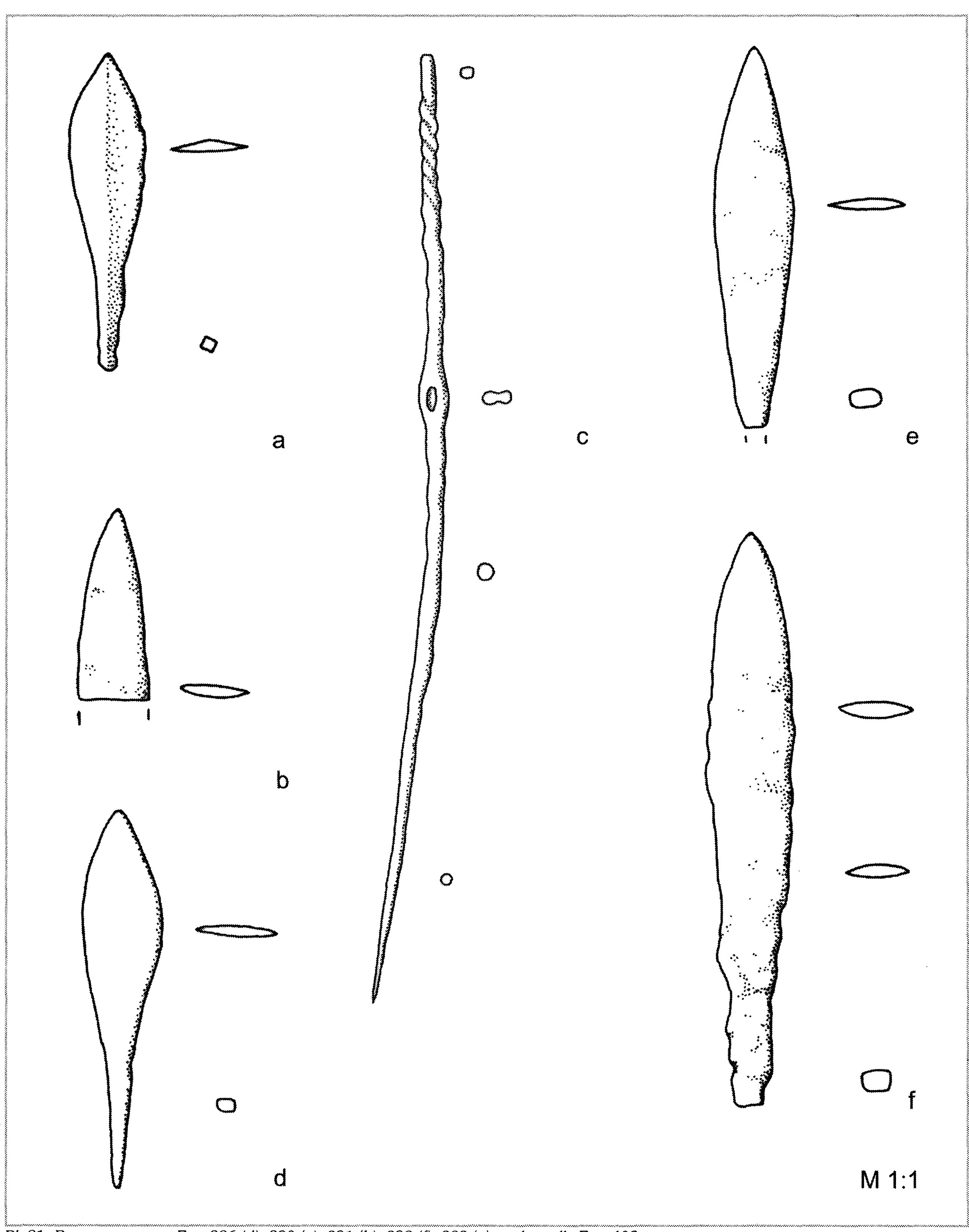
Pl. 20- Varia: Fnr. 401, 394 and 389.

arrow heads (Fnr. 390-391) stem from the filling of the round structure itself (lower reached levels). One further arrow head (Fnr. 383) and one spear (Fnr. 392) head were uncovered in the immediate surroundings of W^P54/W^P49). Another arrow head (Fnr. 386) stems from the area inbetween the walls W^P47 and W^P48. At the moment being it seems likely that all these weapons have to be attributed to the Late Bronze Age period. Whereas the weapon findings hint to a violent incident, no further absolute proof for such an event could be singled out.

7.2. Selected findings from administrative area (J. Linke)

Selected findings from the LBA administrative area

In the rubble above the LBA-structures the fragment of a Mycenaean bull figurine (Fnr. 393) (**Pl. 22**) with red stripes on light brown ground had been found. It is in principle similar to the one found at the east slope in 2009[53].



Pl. 21- Bronze weapons: Fnr. 386 (d), 390 (e), 391 (b), 392 (f), 383 (a), and needle Fnr. 402.

Selected findings from the installation formed by walls W^S10-11

In the installation east of the MBA and LBA structures, inside the two walls W^S10 and W^S11 which form some kind of "street", a small "button" made of bone (Fnr. 394) has been found (**Pl. 20**). Also from this context come several fragments of two tripod stone bowls (EF28-30 / I/II-h-1/18 / 2010).

Selected findings from the MBA administrative area

In the MBA context, in the rubble above the southern part of W^S4, a cylinder seal impression, unrolled on a handle of small jar (Fnr. 396) (**Pl. 23**), shows the same complex motif as the impression found 2009 in the northern palace area[54]. From the modern rubble west of wall W^S9a-b came a rectangular stamp, showing an incised, highly stylized animal figure (Fnr. 399) (**Fig 28**). From the same context comes another seal impression, a square cut stamp seal, stamped again on the handle (Fnr. 398), but this time of a storage jar, that shows a human figure as well as an animal (**Fig. 29**). In the mud-bricks east of wall W^S12, a quite big bronze needle was found (Fnr. 402).

Selected findings from the deep trench

In the greyish-brown loam-layer of the deep trench a scraper made of stone (Fnr. 401) was found in the soil (**Pl. 20a**).

7.3. *Findings from the burial pit, located in the settlement area west of the temple, season 2011* (Pl. 8e and Pl. 15) (E. Wagner-Durand)

Except for the bronze spear head found in Grave G^t1, already excavated in 2007 (GF^t2)[55], the only grave goods discovered in the grave pits were pottery vessels. In addition, the bronze spear head does not denote a grave good, more likely it had been the cause of death of the individual buried[56].

One of the mentioned vessels, namely GF^t1, has already been found in 2007, two other vessels, both typical MBA II juglets, one painted and the other smaller and plain, were discovered during the excavation of 2011. (for the vessels: see Catanzeriti in this report)



Fig. 28- Stamp Fnr. 399.

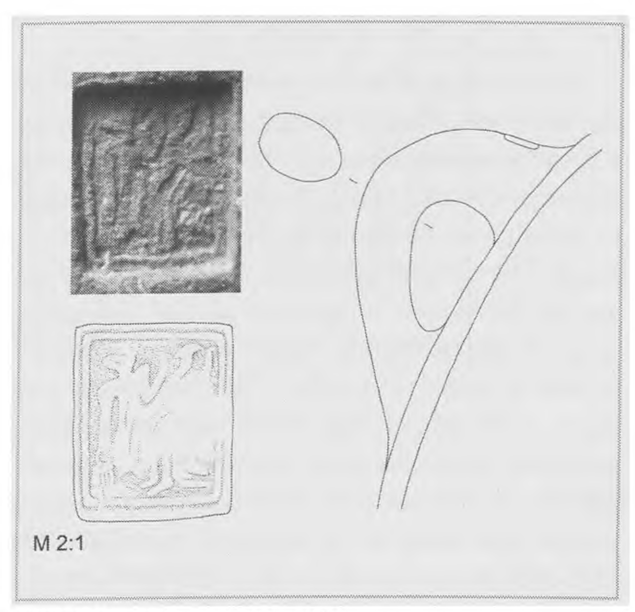
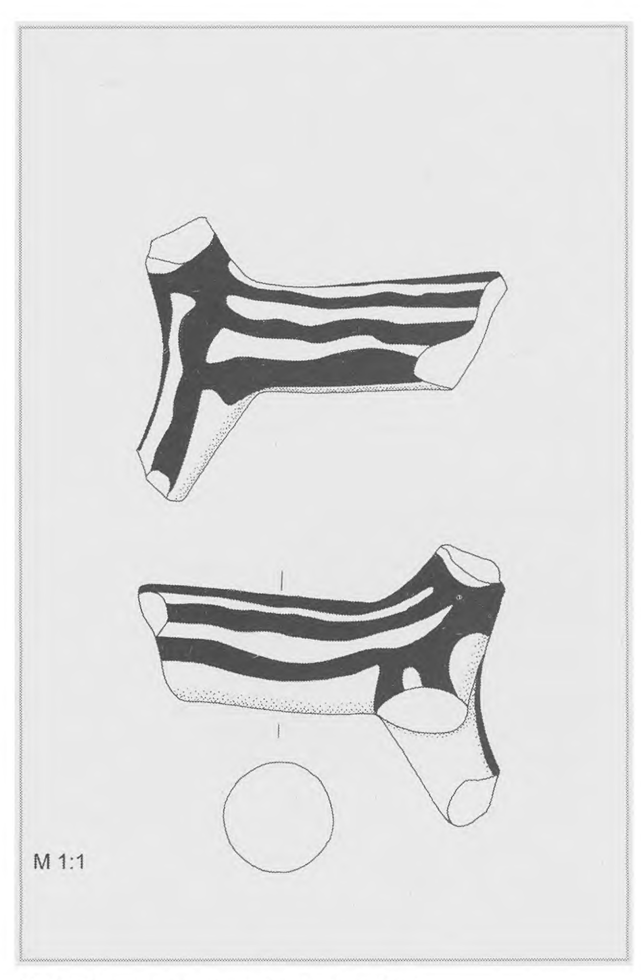


Fig. 29- Stamp impression Fnr. 398.



Pl. 22- Mycenaean animal figurine Fnr. 393.

Those vessels relativize the assumption made of the grave pit (Wagner-Durand in press). Whereas it is still absolutely likely that this grave pit does not represent a regular burial, the findings of the vessels as grave goods do hint to an at least roughly pious burial. The assumption drawn from this might be that the individuals buried there all died during the same contemporaneous violent incident (Wagner-Durand in press., and Linke – Wagner 2010b, and Kirsch in this report). The funeral itself has not been conducted by the enemies, throwing them carelessly into the pit. More likely the burial has been conducted (maybe very hasty) by the bereaved / the inhabitants of Kumidi giving the individuals at least the minimum of grave goods they needed[57].

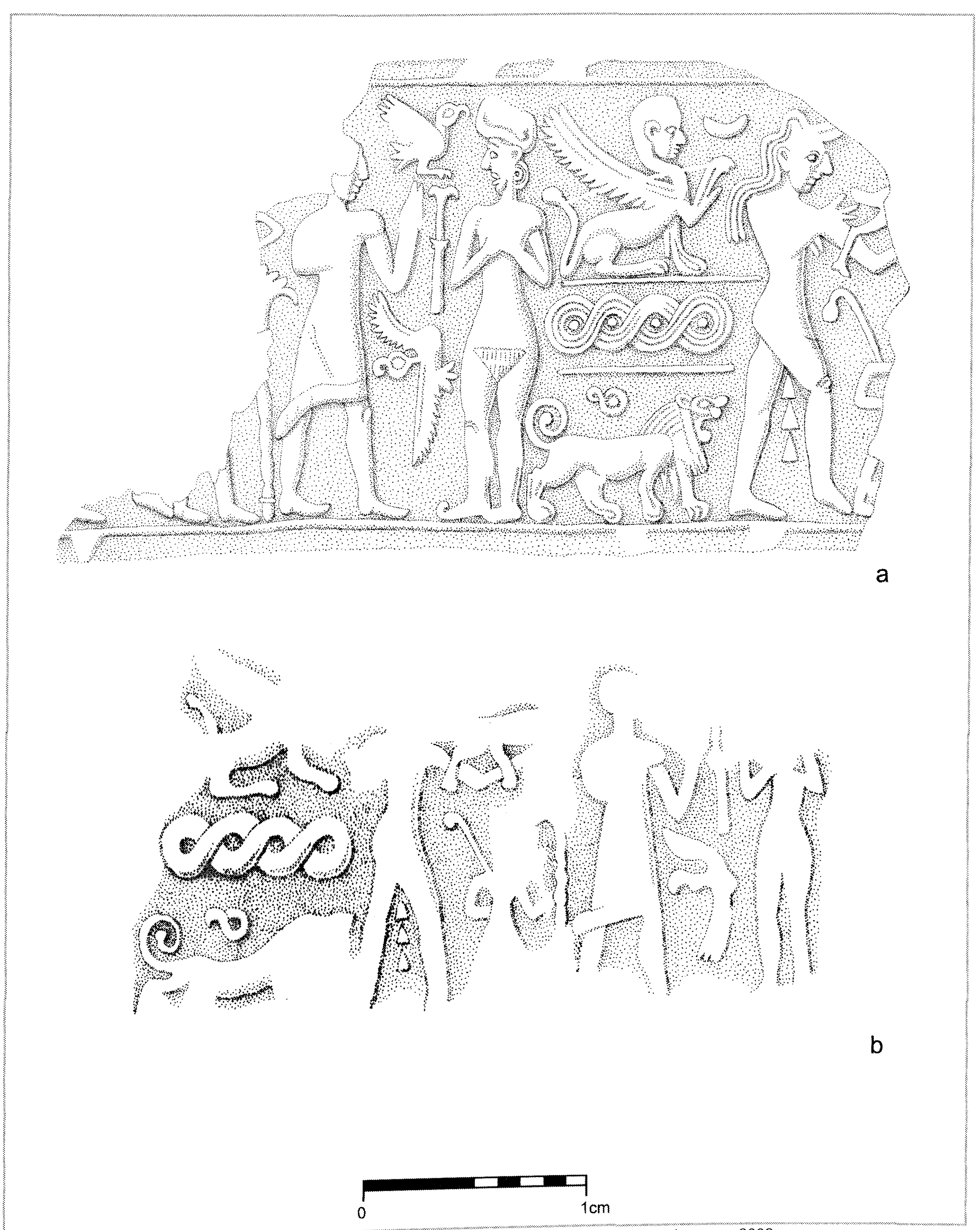
7.4. Catalogue of the small finds 2010/2011
(E. Wagner-Durand and J. Linke)

The Palace

Fnr. 366
Intarsia
I-i-15/16/ 1/ 16: from the pottery floor level in room R7 (MB II-context)
27.9.2010
Bone
Preserved l: 8,2 cm; average w: 1,65; th: 0,3 cm; diam: hole: 0,45 cm; diam: circles about 0,6 cm; Diam. dot: ca. 1,5 cm
Rectangular elongated flat polished bone inlay; one side completely flat except of a horizontal groove, separating the part of the intarsia with a hole for fixing (the potential counterpart is broken); The other and right side is slightly more rounded and less flat: it shows a decorative pattern consisting of a raw of circles with a dot inside: eight such circle-dots are preserved, the rest is broken.
Cf. Doumet-Serhal 2009, box of antler bone panels with circular decorations: Fig. 44, Grave 100; Gachet-Bizollon 2007, 298, 456: Planche 106: Nr. 371.
(See **Pl. 17**)

Fnr. 367
Pestle
I-i-15/16 / 2 / 20: removing soil and pottery flooring FS16 (MBA II-context)
Stone, slightly poriferous surface
L: 7,6 cm; average diam: 3,5 cm
Elongated stone pestle

Fnr. 368
"Button" / spindle whorl (?)
I-i-15/16 / 3 / 30 (16): removing mud-bricks and pottery from room R7 (MBA II-context)
2.10.2010
Diam: 2,7 cm; max. h: 0,6 cm; Diam. hole: max, 0,3 cm
Small "button", flat conical shape, with drilled hole and circular burnishing traces
Cf. Miron 1990, general: No. 569-648, esp. Taf. 52: u.a. 6-9, Taf. 53: 1-8, Abb. 72; Yahalom-Mack 2007, 666, Fig. 12.4 and Photo 12.4



Pl. 23- Cylinder seal impressions from the administrative area: below Fnr. 396 in 2011; and the palace area 2009.

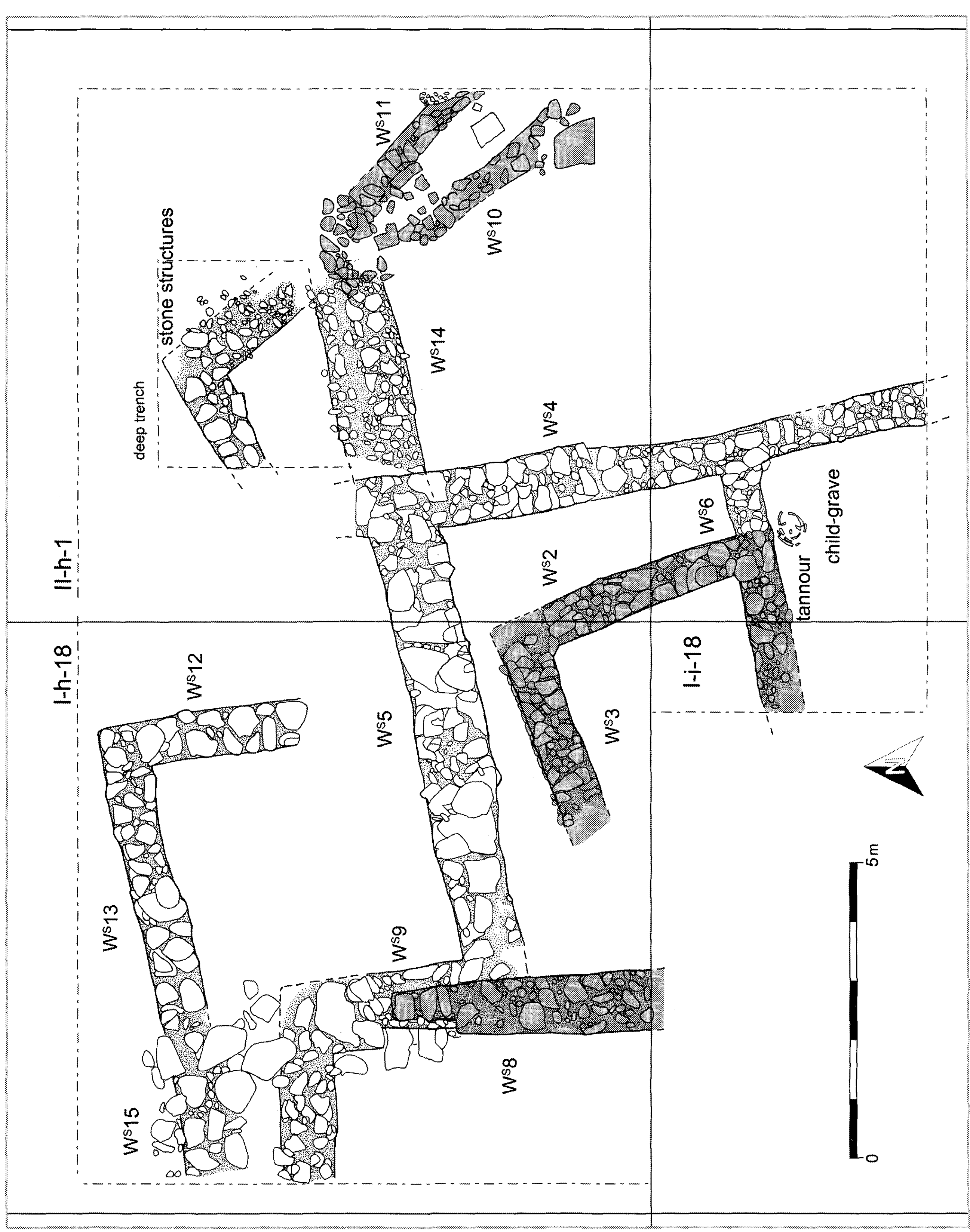


Fig. 30- Plan of the administrative area: the LBA structures highlighted.

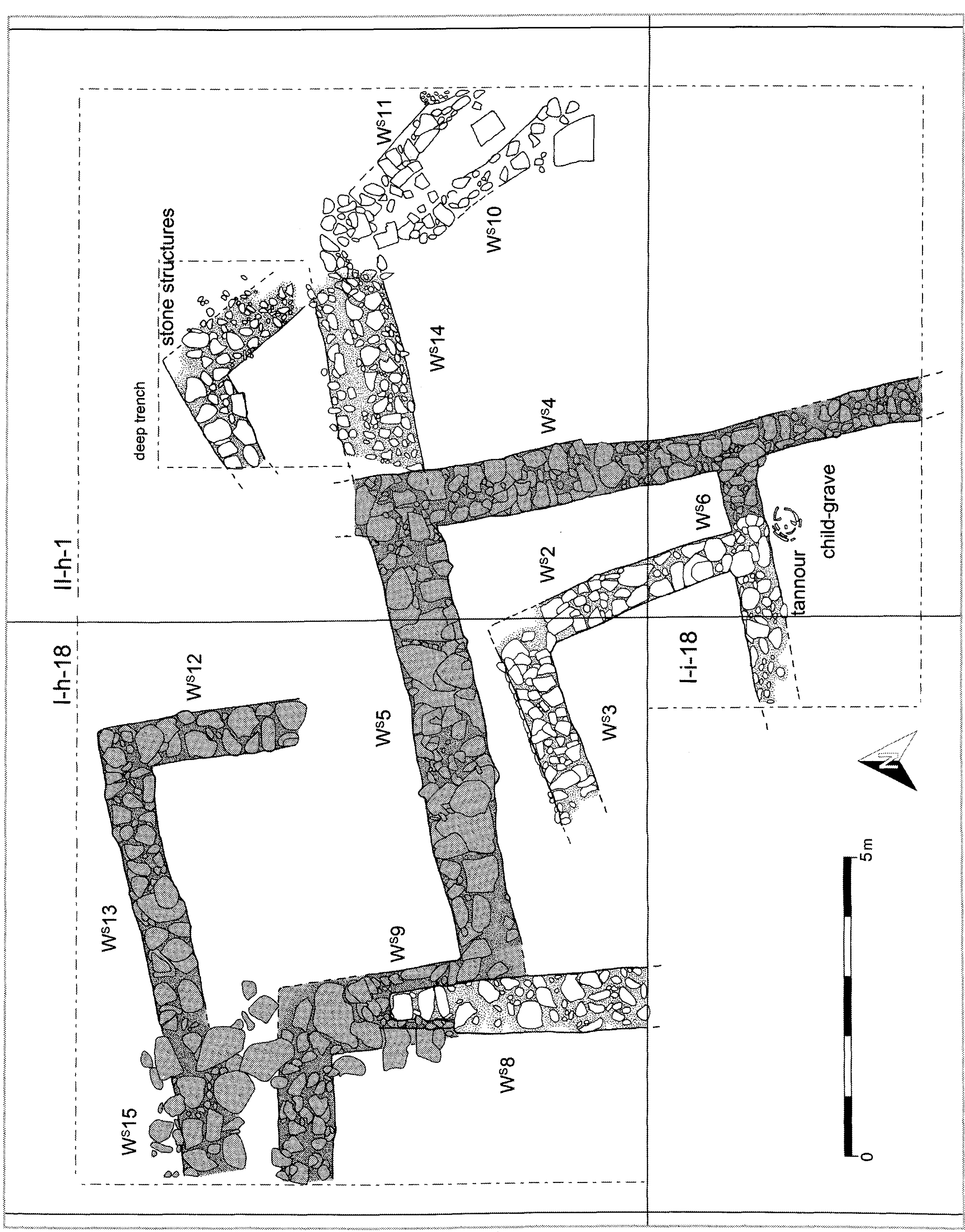


Fig. 31- Plan of the administrative area: the MBA II structures highlighted.

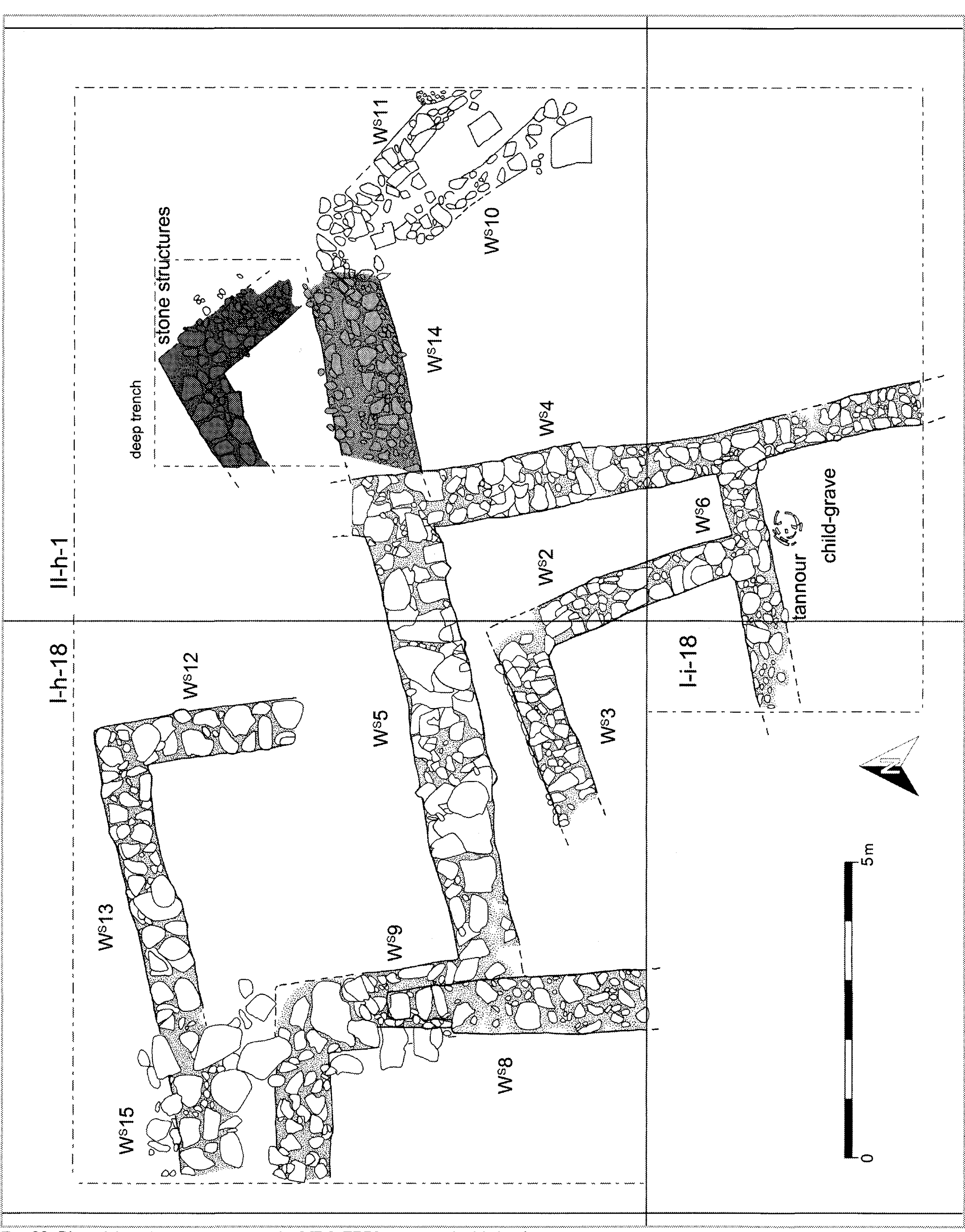


Fig. 32- Plan of the administrative area: the MB I- EBIV structures highlighted.

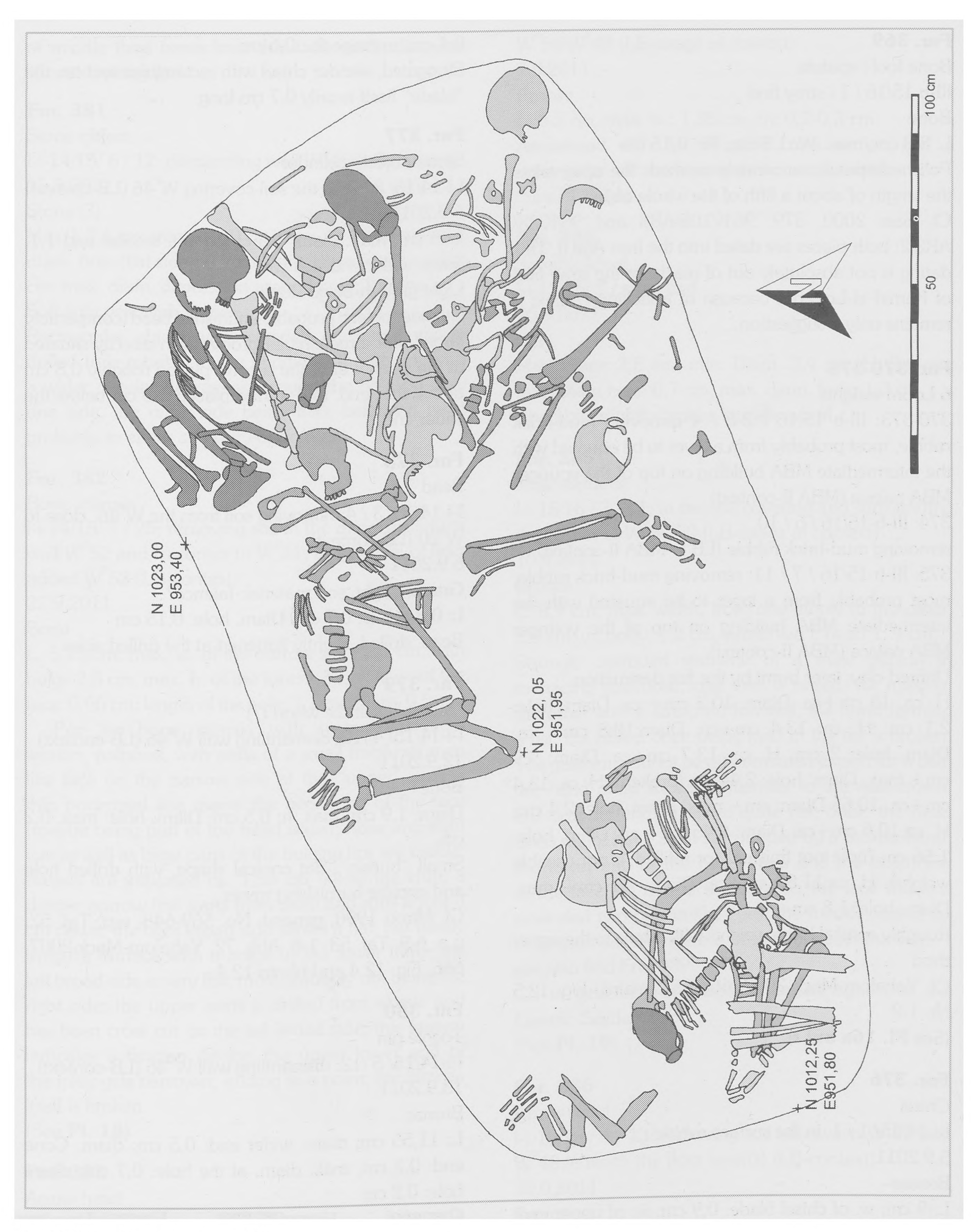


Fig. 33- Plan of the mass grave G'1-3.

Fnr. 369
Bone tool / spatula
III-b 15/16 / 1 / stray find
Bone
L: 8,3 cm, max. W: 1,9 cm; Th: 0,15 cm
Polished spatula, accurately worked; the apex takes the length of about a fifth of the whole object
Cf. Sass 2000, 379: 96/K/105/AR8 and 96/K/28/AR2/2: both pieces are dated into the Iron Age II. This dating is not absolutely out of reach for the stray find of Kamid el-Loz, but because of a lacking context it remains only a suggestion.

Fnr. 370-375
6 Loom weights
370-373: III-b 15/16 / 2-5 / 4 removing mud-brick rubble, most probably from a layer to be equated with the intermediate MBA building on top of the younger MBA palace (MBA II-context)
374: III-b-15/16 / 6 / 10:
removing mud-brick rubble (LB I –MBA II-context)
375: III-b-15/16 / 7 / 11: removing mud-brick rubble, most probably from a layer to be equated with the intermediate MBA building on top of the younger MBA palace (MBA II-context)
Unfired clay; later burnt by the fire destruction
H. ca. 13 cm+ca. Diam: 10,2 cm+ ca. Diam. hole: 2,1 cm; H. ca. 13.4 cm+ca. Diam:10.8 cm+ ca. Diam. hole: 2 cm; H. ca. 13,7 cm+ca. Diam: 9,9 cm+ max. Diam. hole: 2,44 cm (broken); H. ca. 13,4 cm+ca. 10,65 Diam: cm+ max. Diam. hole: 2,4 cm; H. ca.10,6 cm+ca. Diam: 9,45 cm+ ca. Diam. hole: 1,56 cm (hole not finished (or refilled?), not useable weight); H. ca.11,85 cm+ca. Diam: 9,1 cm+ max. Diam. hole: 1,8 cm
Roughly conical loom weights with a hole in the upper third
Cf. Yahalom-Mack 2007, 666-667: mainly Fig. 12.5 Nr. 1-2.
(See **Pl. 16a anf f**)

Fnr. 376
Chisel
I-i-14/15/ 1 / 1: in the surface rubble
5.9.2011
Bronze
L: 9 cm; w. of chisel blade: 0,9 cm, w. of upper end: 0,4 cm, average th.: 0,6 cm
Elongated, slender chisel with rectangular section, the "blade" itself is only 0,7 cm long

Fnr. 377
Stone object / cylinder
I-i-14/15/ 2 / 2: in the soil covering W^P46 (LB-context)
5.9.2011
L: 5 cm, max. diam. 1,5 cm, diam. smaller end 1,1, diam. wider end: 1,3 cm
Light greyish-beige stone
Cylinder object: probably unfinished bead (comparably large) with three circular grooves: on directly situated at the smaller end, the second placed roughly 0,8 cm above that end, and a third placed 0,5 cm below the wider end.

Fnr. 378
Bead
I-i-14/15/ 3 / 4: removing soil from the W^P46, close to W^P20 (LB-context)
6.9.2011
Grayish, light, soft material: faience?
L: 0,8 cm, B: 0,7 cm, Diam. hole: 0,15 cm
Bead, drilled, slightly flattened at the drilled sides

Fnr. 379
"button"/ spindle whorl (?)
I-i-14/15/ 4 /12: dismantling wall W^P46 (LB-context)
12.9.2011
Bone
Diam: 1,9 cm; max. h: 0,5 cm; Diam. hole: max, 0,2 cm
Small "button", flat conical shape, with drilled hole and circular burnishing traces
Cf. Miron 1990, general: No. 569-648, esp. Taf. 52: u.a. 6-9, Taf. 53: 1-8, Abb. 72, Yahalom-Mack 2007, 666, Fig. 12.4 and photo 12.4.

Fnr. 380
Toggle pin
I-i-14/15/ 5 /12: dismantling wall W^P46 (LB-context)
13.9.2011
Bronze
L: 11,55 cm; diam: wider end: 0,5 cm; diam. Cone end: 0,2 cm, max. diam. at the hole: 0,7 cm; diam. hole: 0,2 cm
Corroded toggle pin; the hole is placed in the beginning

of middle third (seen from the wider end); diameter almost rectangular

Fnr. 381
Stone object
I-i-14/15/ 6 / 12: dismantling wall W^{P}46 (LB-context)
15.9.2011
Stone (?)
Max: l: 2,6 cm; max w: 2,0 cm; max. th: 1,05 cm; max. diam. hole (flat side): 0,7 cm, min. diam. hole: ca. 0,3 cm; max. diam. depression around hole: 2,0 cm
Soft light yellowish stone
Rectangular object with rounded ends and widely drilled hole roughly in the middle of the object (with a wider circular depression around the hole on only one side, the other side being flat); belonged most probably to either a jewelry or garment

Fnr. 382
Bone intarsia
I-i-14/15/ 7 / 25: removing soil in the direct vicinity of wall W^{P}52 and its corner to W^{P}51, usage level of later added W^{P}52 (LB-context)
22.9.2011
Bone
L: 5,75 cm; max. w. of the narrow side: 2,1 cm, with bulge 2,3 cm, max. h. of the face: 1,56, max w. of the face: 0,66 cm; length of the hole: 1,1 cm, diam. 0,5 cm,

Peg leg bone intarsia with rectangular cross section, polished, with parts of a small fragile women like face on the narrow side at the "upper" end: a thin horizontal line marks the beginning of the face (maybe being part of the head dress); nose and right eye as well as large parts of the bulging lips are visible; breasts are indicated ca. 1,33 cm below the chin; a deeper narrow line starts from there and runs about 3 cm down; the right broad side shows a flat, but barely irregular surface with a bulge in the lower third; the left broad side is very flat, most probably not being the right side; the upper parts is drilled from above and has been cross cut on the left broad side; this feature indicates a fixation device; the upper lower end of the inlay gets narrower, ending in a point; the intarsia itself is broken.
(See **Pl. 18**)

Fnr. 383
Arrow head
I-i-15/16/ 1 /5: removing soil in a trench revealing wall W^{P}54/W^{P}49 (LB-usage of context)
7.9.2011
Bronze
L: 5,5 cm, max. w.: 1,35 cm, th: 0,2-0,3 cm
Arrowhead with flat rhombic cross section and a rectangular, almost square section at the shaft
(See **Pl. 21a**)

Fnr. 384
Spindle whorl
I-i-15/16/ 2 / stray find
10.9.2011
Clay
Max. diam: 3,8 cm, min. Diam. 3,4 cm, H: 2,6 cm; min. Diam hole: 0,7 cm, max. diam. hole: 1,3 cm
Rhombic, slightly broken spindle whorl

Fnr. 385
Male statuette
I-i-15/16 / 3 / 11: in the soil covering and surrounding the corner of W^{P}54/50 (LB-usage of context)
10.9.2011
Bronze
L: 8,9 cm; max. width, from one elbow to the other: 3,5 cm; w. body: 1,2 cm, preserved l: head 1, 9 cm,
Strongly corroded statuette of a male person in menacing god pose; one arm is raised, fist missing; the other arm is stretched forward, the hand forming a fist; the object once being held in the fist is broken. The garment cannot be differentiated expect for a belt; the head dress shows similarities to the Atef-crown, but is upper ending seems quite flat; once, the head dress might have been surrounded by a bronze band; the lower end of the head dress and the beginning of the face are almost inseparable; the face shows a nose and two button-like eyes, the mouth cannot be distinguished; the figure is broken beneath the belt.
see also find Fnr. 389.
Cf. in general: For standing armed figures in the Levant: Seeden 1980.
(See **Pl. 19**)

Fnr. 386
Arrow head
I-i-15/16 / 4 / 13: removing soil inbetween W^{P}47 and W^{P}48 to reach the floor level(s) (LB-context)
10.9.2011
Bronze

L: 6,6 cm, max. w: 1,4 cm, th: 0,2 cm, shaft: 0,3 cm x 0,2 cm, pointy end of shaft: 0,1 cm
Arrow head with rectangular shaft and a flat oval point section.
(See **Pl. 21d**)

Fnr. 387
Needle
I-i-15/16 / 5 / 11: in the soil covering the corner W^P54/50 and the immediate (mainly southern) surrounding (LB)
Bronze
L: 6,7 cm; max. th.: 0,5 cm
Corroded needle; the cross section changes from point to end: from circular to square

Fnr. 389
Bronze object / symbol (?)
I-i-15/16 / 6 / 16: from the filling of the round structure (upper layers, LB?-usage of context)
15.9.2011
Bronze
L: 2,8 cm, diam. "shaft": 0,4 cm, diam: flames / bolts: ca. 0,2 cm
Two branches divert from a broken shaft, their endings touch each other again
See also Fnr. 385
(See **Pl. 20**)

Fnr. 390
Arrow head
I-i-15/16 7 / 27: from the filling of the round structure (W^P49)
21.9.2011
Bronze
L: 6,65 cm; w: 1,35 cm, th: 0,2 cm, shaft: 0,5 cm x 0,4 cm
Arrow head with rectangular shaft (beginning) and a flat oval point section.
(See **Pl. 21e**)

Fnr. 391
Arrow head
I-i-15/16/ 8 / 27: from the filling of the round structure (W^P49)
21.9.11
Bronze
Preserved L: 3,3 cm, max. w: 1,3 cm, th: 0,2 cm
removing soil from the western side of wall W^P54 and west of wall W^P54
Arrow head, broken, with a flat oval section.
(See **Pl. 21b**)

Fnr. 392
Spear head
I-i-15/16 / 9 / 32: removing soil from the western side of wall W^P54 and west of wall W^P54 (LB-usage of context)
23.9.2011
Bronze
L: 10 cm; max. blade: w: 1,5 cm, max. th:0,3 cm, shaft: 0,5 cm x 0,4 cm
Spear head with rectangular shaft and a flat oval blade.
(See **Pl. 21f**)
Administrative area (J. Linke)

Fnr. 393
Fragment of a bovine animal figurine
I/II-h-1/18 / 1 / 1 / removing the rubble
13.09.10
Pottery
Max. Diam. 1.5 cm; L: 4.3 cm
Fragment of a Mycenaean bull figurine, light-brown with red stripes.
Cf. Kamid el-Loz Fnr. 190: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.
(See **Pl. 22**)

Fnr. 394
Button
I/II-h-1/18 / 2 / 17 / inside the installation of walls W^S10 and W^S11
17.09.10
Bone
Diam: 2.7 cm; H: 0.6 cm
Drilled bone object, maybe a button.
Cf. Hachmann 1983, Katalog Nr. 23.
(See **Pl. 20b**)

Fnr. 395
Vertebra of a fish / shark (?)
I/II-h-1/18 / 3 / 22 / east of W^S4
23.09.10
Bone
Diam: 2.4 cm; H: 1.1 cm
Maybe used as a game stone (?).

Fnr. 396
Handle with seal impression
I/II-h-1/18 / 4 / 24 / above wall W^S4
29.09.10
Pottery
L: 3.3 cm; W: 1.7 cm
Seal impression on a handle. The depiction is very similar to the impression that was found in the Palace area in 2009. Probably they stem from the same cylinder seal.
Cf. Kamid el-Loz Fnr. 341: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.
(See **Pl. 23**)

Fnr. 397
Drilled stone
I/II-h-1/18 / 5 / 35 / in ash layer east of the tannour
05.10.10
Stone
Diam (reconstructed): 5.0 cm
Round stone object with a drilling, fragmented. Maybe used as a spindle whorl or button (?).

Fnr. 398
Stamp impression
I/II-h-1/18 / 6 / 24 / ash layer south of the tannour
05.10.10
Pottery
L: 1.3 cm; W: 1.2 cm
Handle with a stamp seal impression of a human (?) figure carrying some kind of bucket and another figure which is not well preserved, maybe an animal.
(See **Fig. 29**)

Fnr. 399
Incised stone object
I/II-h-1/18 / 7 / 25 / in rubble west of W^S9
05.10.10
Stone
L: 9.4 cm; W: 7 cm
Stone with incised decoration which may show two animals.
(See **Fig. 28**)

Fnr. 400
Bone object
I/II-h-1/18 / 8 / 43 / next to the tannour
06.10.10
Bone
Diam: 1.6 cm; H: 3.4 cm
Bone object with several drillings.
2011:

Fnr. 401
Scraper
I/II-h-1/18 / 1 / 23 / in greyish-brown loam-layer of the deep trench
16.09.11
Stone
L: 7.5 cm; W: 7 cm; H: 1 cm
Stone tool, most probably a scraper.
(See **Pl. 20a**)

Fnr. 402
Needle
I/II-h-1/18 / 2 / 8 / in mud-bricks east of wall W^S12
24.09.11
Bronze
L: 16.6 cm; Diam: 0.3-0.5 cm
Bronze needle with one eye.
Pl. 21 d
Temple: deep trench 2011 (E. Wagner-Durand)

Fnr. 403
Blade/knife
I-f-14 / 1 / stray find from the dismantling of wall W^t3 (LB context)
6.9.2011
Silex
L: 7,6 cm; max. w: 1,6 cm; max. th: 0,6 cm
Blade with triangular cross section, carefully retouched, both cutting sides of the blade retouched in the same way

Fnr. 404
Pestle (?)
I-f-14/ 2 / 4: excavating grave G^t7 (MBA II-context)
9.9.2011
Basalt
L: 7,5 cm; section: 5,4 x 4,7 cm
Pestle(?) of almost rectangular but rounded cross section with conical basic shape

Fnr. 405
Knife/blade
I-f-14/ 3 / 4: near the grave pit of G^t1-3 (MBA II-context)
9.9.2011
Silex

L: 8,3 cm; max. w: 2,6 cm; max. th. 1,1 cm
Blade with shaft like ending, cross section of the upper blade part: trapezoid, of the lower part: triangular; only one sight of the blade was usable for cutting

Fnr. 406
Knife/ blade
I-f-14/ 4 / 5: in the soil underneath the grave pit (MB-context)
13.9.2011
Silex
Preserved l: 6,1 cm; max. w: 1,8 cm; max th: 0,4 cm
Broken blade, with a trapezoid cross section; one blade side is wider than the other; possible retouching of the blade edges

Addendum: the 2011 pottery grave goods from the graves of G^{t}1-3
(E. Wagner-Durand)

For other small finds directly connected to these graves (GF^{t}1-2): see Linke – Wagner 2010b, 119: Fig. 77, 120: Fig. 79.

Two further vessels belong to those graves:
GF^{t}3
Dipper juglet (LPW)
I-f-14 / no small find = pottery registration / from the grave pit of G^{t}1-3 (MBA II-context): ensemble II G^{t}2
Pottery
H: 21,6 cm; reconstructed diam. mouth: 6,8 cm
Fragile (fragmented) juglet with simple handle, simple rim and painting on the neck and the upper body: consisting of horizontal rims in black and red color as well as a wavy line of black coloring
See Catanzariti in this report
(See **Pl. 15**)

GF^{t}4
I-f-14 / no small find = pottery documentation / grave pit of G^{t}1-3 (MBA II-context) ensemble II G^{t}2
16.9.2011
Dipper juglet
Pottery
H: 16, cm; reconstructed diam. mouth: 4,5
Small fragile (fragmented) juglet with simple handle and a flat base; unpainted; spout broken
See Catanzariti in this report
(See **Pl. 8e**)

Concordances

Palace: I-i-15/16 and III-b-15/16
Walls
2010

w1/10/W(agner) = W^{P}41
w2/10/W = W^{P}40
w3/10/W = continuation of W^{P}10-3
w4/10/W = continuation of W^{P}41 to the east
w5/10/W = continuation of W^{P}39 in the eastern profile
w6/10/W = W^{P}43
w7/10/W = W^{P}42 (underneath W^{P}10-3, older phase)
w8/10/W = W^{P}44 (only visible in the southern section of III-b-15/16

2011

W^{P}45-W^{P}55
W^{P}-numbers were given ad hoc during the excavation, no concordance needed

Administrative area
(J. Linke)

Walls

2010

M2/2010/L(inke) = W^{S}11
M3/2010/L = W^{S}10
M7/2010/L = W^{S}7
M8/2010/L = W^{S}9a
M9/2010/L = W^{S}8
M10/2010/L = W^{S}9b
M11/2010/L = Southern prolongation of W^{S}4
M12/2010/L = W^{S}6

2011
The new W^{S}-numbers were given ad hoc during the excavation, no concordance needed

Graves

Deep trench in the settlement west of the temple
G^{t}5 = G1/I-f-14/2011
G^{t}6 = G2/I-f-14/2011
G^{t}7 = G3/I-f-14/2011

Addendum to 2009:
G^{P}1 = G1/III-i-15/16/2009: newborn child's grave in wall W^{P}33

Notes

1- See also our homepage: http://www.vorderasien.uni-freiburg.de/index.php/grabungen.

2- The terminology "palace" – has been coined by the team of the University of Saarbrücken, excavating in Kamid el-Loz during the 1960-1980's. Other designations as "monumental building, official building, large building" are as well possible to characterize this so-called "palace".

3- The name, currently not more than a working concept, has been given to this area in 2010 when several seals and seal impressions occurring here strongly referred to appropriate activities.

4- Wagner-Durand in press.

5- For details see Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

6- Very roughly MBA IIB/C according to the southern chronologies or MBA II/III acc. to the Arqa chronology.

7- A detailed report on our studies of the MBA palace can be found in Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

8- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

9- The excavations of the University of Saarbrucken did already expose several construction stages of the younger Late Bronze Age palace buildings – see Adler – Penner 2001. The Late Bronze Age architecture (here wall W^P41) uncovered in the palace area by our research can, at the moment being, be linked as follows to the results of the University of Saarbrucken, namely with palace P5.

10- The very eastern architectural remains run underneath the modern cemetery and will be not available for further excavations.

11- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

12- W^P20 has been built during the MBA II period and fell victim to the fire destruction of the MBA II palace. Its further usage history remains to be clarified. At the moment being it is assumed that the remains may have served stability purposes in construction the LBA palace, but has not been a vital structural part of the visible LBA palace.

13- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

14- This vacant space is missing any archaeological traces form the newly excavated oldest palace – a fact that is due to the archaeological and non-archaeological activities since the 60ties of the 20th century. Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

15- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press. Other possible reinforcing devices may have been the later use of the MBA II wall W^P20 and its rubble filling.

16- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

17- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

18- Wall W^P45 has been registered between level 941,17m and 942,35m.

19- Wall W^P47 has been captured between level 941,32m and 942,00m.

20- Wall W^P48 has been registered between level ca. 941,76m and 942,38m.

21- Wall W^P 41 has been preserved between level 941,56m and 940,88m, W^P40 between level 941,88m and 940,25m.

22- Wall W^P51 was captured between level 941,40m and 940,20m; wall W^P52 between 941,50m and about 941,00m.

23- Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

24- See: Adler – Penner 2001.

25- Planum palace P4a: see: Adler – Penner 2001.

26- For the results of our palace investigations up to 2009 see: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

27- Further information concerning layout, stratigraphy and functions: see: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

28- For details concerning the collapse of the building see also Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

29- The rubble of the same destruction process east of wall W^P30 has been dismantled and analyzed during our excavation 2009; for our report see Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

30- F.E. in room 6: a floor (ca. 940,90 m - 941,00m) covered a white ash layer and broken pottery: see Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

31- Wall W^P20 has been verified between 941,10m and 942,55m wall W^P51 between levels 940,20 m and 941,40m.

32- Wall W^P55 arises between 940,50m and 940,13m.

33- For more details concerning room 12 resp. walls W^P37 and W^P38 as well as the area north of W^P37 see our report in: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

34-- Concerning the so-called Schatzhaus / treasury: see: Adler 1994; Hachmann – Adler 1996.

35- The seal impression 2009: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press and the impression of 2010: Heinz – Linke 2011.

36- This structure is itself neighbored to another, younger installation, see Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press for its description.

37- See our report in Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

38- See our report in Heinz *et al.* 2010.

39- For all the details concerning these graves and repeated here, see: Linke – Wagner 2010.

40- The rubble of the same destruction process east of wall $W^{P}30$ has been dismantled and analyzed during our 2009 excavation; for our report see Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

41- Schaeffer 1949: Ugarit/Bronze Moyen 1 (2100-1900), Bronze Moyen 2 (1900-1750), Bronze Moyen 3 (1750-1600).

42- I would like to thank Professor Hermann Genz for his help in recognizing some of the Early Bronze Age sherds found during the excavation season of 2011.

43- For the grave goods excavated 2007 see our report: Linke – Wagner 2010b.

44- Linke – Wagner 2010a.

45- The burial 100 from Sidon is dated into the 16th century, a dating quite acceptable for the bone inlay of Kamid. Doumet-Serhal 2009, 40.

46- The context of the finding is dated into the 17th-15th century, with a mayor usage phase during the17th. Century. Gachet-Bizollon 2007, 298.

47- Concerning Adler's assumptions that Miron Nr. 503-504 represent parts of a furniture that shows a blind person on the side and a sighted person on the other side: Adler 1994, 79-80.

48- Concerning the problems to identify the distinct god Baal: Eggler 2007.

49- The sitting figures are omitted here.

50- For general information concerning standing armed figurines: Seeden 1980.

51- See for the findings: Seeden 1980.

52- Cf. Seeden 1980, 121.

53- A Mycenaean animal figurine: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press.

54- The seal impression from the palace 2009: Heinz *et al.* 2010/in press and Heinz – Linke 2011.

55- See Linke – Wagner 2010b.

56- See Linke – Wagner 2010b.

57- In such a burial pit like this one presented here the attribution of the grave goods of course remains suggestive.

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